

# San Quentin News

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## Prisoners Work To Fight Fires

Inmates must rely on one another in dangerous, life-threatening conditions

By Wesley R. Eisiminger  
Journalism Guild Writer

Inmate fire teams are doing a lot more than work behind the fire lines. They are working off prison time, reports the *Auburn Journal*.

The first permanent conservation camp was established in 1946 for low-level offenders who "have been volunteering to learn the trade of wildland firefighting and a host of other

skills they can use upon release."

Some of these skills such as woodworking, metalwork and welding are not recreational activities. They are a way to maintain equipment and earn money. Examples are making park benches and custom-inlaid tables.

Part of the August story was based on Growlersburg Camp

See **Firefighters** on Page 5



File photo

San Quentin's firefighters unite to prevent fire outbreaks

## Will Gov. Brown's 'Cookie Jar' Help Pay for Realignment?

By David Eugene Archer Sr.  
Journalism Guild Writer

Many California counties say they need more money to cope with additional prisoners kept in local jails instead of being shipped to a state prison.

That was the main thing officials told Gov. Jerry Brown when he visited California counties last year to assess the impact of the prison Realignment plan, which took effect in October 2011.

The counties said they need more money for new jail cells, inmate mental health counseling and education and rehabil-



File photo

Gov. Brown says that 'the counties and local governments need help with the resources'

See **Gov. Brown** on Page 16

## S. Q.'s Emergency Medical Strike Team

A rapid response unit known as the Strike Team was created at San Quentin State Prison to combat the various communicable diseases that could possibly affect the overall general population this year.

An emergency unit was needed and necessary to strike as quickly as possible

in the event of contamination of a non-medical area in the prison, Public Health Nurse Allyson Tabor notified Correctional Lt D. Graham.

Each housing unit will be responsible for cleaning any contaminated area where the transmission of the various diseases could almost certainly shut down the entire

institution for weeks, Graham said in an interview.

Graham described these diseases as scabies, lice, blood-borne pathogens such as Hepatitis B and Hepatitis C, HIV, gastroenteritis cases (suspect Noro or C. difficile), chickenpox or the flu. Any one of these conditions can spread to others if not cleaned

up properly.

S. Pulido, the program facilitator, recruited and trained the Strike Team in two weeks to combat and prevent these diseases from spreading.

The team will comprise 23 individuals selected and housed throughout the insti-

See **Strike Team** on Page 4



Photo by Sam Heames

California medical facility inside San Quentin costing approximately \$180 million

## U.S. Spends \$60 Billion On Its Prisons and Jails

By Marcus Henderson  
Journalism Guild Writer

America spent more than \$60 billion for state prisons and local jails, according to a U.S. Department of Justice report. That included some \$40 billion by states and about \$20 billion by cities and counties. The data

includes fiscal years 2005-2011.

"Between 2005 and 2011, total spending by local governments fluctuated between \$1.6 trillion and \$1.7 trillion," the Dec. 13, 2013, report said. Corrections spending fluctuated between \$25.8 billion and \$28.4 billion, or 1.6 percent of the total.

Local governments spent 84 percent of their total corrections expenditures on correctional institutions, such as local jails and detention centers, in 2011.

This is up from 80 percent in 2005. Local government spent the remainder of their correc-

tions budget on other functions, such as supervising offenders in the community and maintaining and operating non-residential halfway houses. Local government also paid for current operations and capital outlay expenditures to operate and build correctional institutions.

Current operations expenditures consist of officer and employee compensation, utilities and any supplies or contractual services not covered by capital outlay.

See **Loc. Prisons** on Page 5

## Costly and Broken Death Penalty System

By Charles David Henry  
Journalism Guild Writer

More than two-thirds of all countries have abolished the death penalty in law or in practice, Amnesty International reports. But some countries, including the United States, still carry out executions.

More than half of the world's population lives in 58 countries where the death penalty is retained by their le-

gal system.

At least 778 executions were reported in 22 countries in 2013, according to Amnesty International's 2014 report on death penalties. That is 96 more than in 2012, according to a Sept. 15 story in *The Times of India*. "With at least 369 executions in the year, Iran leads the list," the newspaper reported.

For centuries, civilizations have justified the use of various methods to perform executions. Even as early as the Roman Empire, death penalty sentences were carried out by crucifixions, drowning, beatings, burning a person to death, impalements and hangings.

According to the report, the oil-producing country of Saudi Arabia sent more than 79 prisoners to their death, followed by the U.S. with 39 executions. Other countries

See **Death Pen.** on Page 12



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Prisoners United in the Craft of Journalism  
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The San Quentin News encourages inmates, free staff, custody staff, volunteers and others outside the institution to submit articles. All submissions become property of the San Quentin News.

Please use the following criteria when submitting:

- Limit your articles to no more than 350 words.
- Know that articles will be edited for content and length.
- The newspaper is not a medium to file grievances. (For that, use the prison appeals process.) We encourage submitting articles that are newsworthy and encompass issues that will have an impact on the prison populace.
- Please do not use offensive language in your submissions.
- Poems and art work (cartoons and drawings) are welcomed.
- Letters to the editor should be short and to the point.

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Counselor N. Lee Helps Inmates Seek Rehabilitation

By Phoeun You  
Graphic Designer

Correctional Officer N. Lee began working approximately one year ago as the Correctional Counselor I inside North Block of San Quentin. During that time, Lee has helped hundreds of inmates seek rehabilitation through her service as a caseworker.

Before taking the counselor position, Lee became a part of the Honor Guard. Only a few individuals are chosen to become Honor Guards. According to Lee, the purpose of the Honor Guard is to represent and serve the families of fallen officers.

Lee said, "We honor the families; we honor officers and their families through our service." Being a part of the Honor Guard gave her an understanding that human beings share similar struggles and are connected in many ways, she explained. "Being able to connect in a time of pain and suffering is an honor for me. Our presence during this time signifies that their loved ones will be missed and honored for their works."

In 2012, Lee faced a life-changing event. Without details, she mentioned that in order to escape misery, "I had to go within my soul and connect spiritually." Lee's advice for others going through similar difficulties is: "Keep working on yourself. Some people, in some way, are in prison mentally. True freedom comes from within."

In her darkest hours, Lee prayed and found strength in a higher power. "When I did that, I got answers. It was obvious. I was overwhelmed with ease and felt liberated." She said that faith would guide her journey through life.

Although Lee always believed in God, her faith was tested during her ordeal. "I've always known God," she said, "but He has not been the leader of my life. Now He takes priority in my life." Lee turned a potentially traumatic event into a positive opportunity to reconnect with God. "I had to go through this to find the light."

Lee's resilience through adversity also carries over in her work and the way she communicates with inmates. As a counselor, she helps inmates rehabilitate and achieve their goals. "I classify you guys (inmates) in specific programs so that you can succeed at your highest level. It's not just programs; we try to make everything conducive to the appropriate level so you can reach your goals," said Lee.

At times, more than 200 inmates are assigned as Lee's clients; the majority are lifers. Through interactions, she realizes that most lifers share a common goal — to serve their sentence and return to society.

In order for lifer inmates to earn their freedom, they must reflect on the factors that led to



Photo by Lt. Sam Robinson

Officer Lee in front of Central Plaza honoring families, firefighters and police officers who perished in 9/11

their crime. Lee witnesses the challenges facing them when preparing for their parole hearings. "I understand the severity at the parole hearings," said Lee. "I do my best to obtain the information to prepare inmates for the board. They have to do their part, so I do my part to the best of my ability," she added.

*"Being able to look in the mirror and say to myself, I did my best. Now tomorrow I have to do better. I have a lot of compassion for humankind. I approach every situation with compassion"*

Despite the endless work and obstacles she faces, Lee takes an optimistic outlook on life. "At the end of the day, things are as they should be." She added, "Being able to look in the mirror and say to myself, 'I did my best. Now tomorrow I have to do better.'" Her motto is a reminder that there is always room for improvement.

Lee's career with the Cali-

fornia Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation also helped her realize that certain parts of the system are broken. Lee expresses concern about sentencing laws and says she cannot understand extreme sentencing. She finds it difficult to grasp why individuals are handed a "135 years-to-life" under the Three Strikes Law. She feels the law should focus on resources like education, trades, drug and alcohol programs, and prevention outlets for the youth instead of harsher sentencing.

During Lee's early days as a correctional officer, others sometimes questioned her about her position. "I had to remind myself that there's the law that we abide by, and there are also people's lives that are at stake."

She said a lifer who had spent over three decades incarcerated once told her to "be true to yourself." She added, "His words connected with me. I was happy to know that he paroled the next day." She further explained that to stay true to herself meant to stand firm in her decisions, despite the outcome, and that the important thing is to continue to learn from the experience.

Looking back on her career, Lee said, "I took a stand for what I believe in." According to many who know her, Lee's faith, fairness and balance contribute to her humility.

**Corrections:**  
In December's edition, Richard Poma and Louis A. Scott last names were misspelled. We apologize for those mistakes.

# ‘Ban the Box’ Movement Is Gaining Traction

*San Francisco Board of Supervisors approves a resolution initiated by All of Us or None calling for San Francisco to eliminate hiring discrimination against people with criminal records*

By Lee Jaspar  
Journalism Guild Writer

Numerous cities and counties have improved the chances for persons with criminal histories to get jobs, the National Employment Law Project reports. Known as “Ban the Box,” the reform prohibits asking about criminal records in the initial job application. The project report estimated that 65 million Americans – or one in four adults – had a criminal history as of 2011. The report also shows that the background check industry has grown with access to the Internet at the same time that

the numbers of workers with criminal records has risen. “Implementing this new policy won’t be easy, but it’s the right thing to do...We cannot ask private employers to consider hiring former prisoners unless the city practices what it preaches,” said then-Mayor Richard Daley when he announced Chicago’s policy banning the box. The U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission issued a revised guidance in April 2012 on the use of arrest and conviction records in employment under Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964. The commission recommended as

a “best practice...that employers not ask about convictions on job applications and that, if and when they make such inquiries, the inquiries be limited to convictions for which exclusion would be job-related for the position in question and consistent with business necessity.” Some 66 jurisdictions, including Chicago, Jacksonville, Philadelphia, San Francisco, Memphis and Baltimore, were highlighted in the report as locations that have adopted Ban the Box. “Just in the first three months of 2014, 11 cities and counties across the nation have adopted these policies emphasizing an

applicant’s qualifications rather than his or her past mistakes,” the report said. The momentum in support of Ban the Box hiring reforms continues to grow. In the report, the campaign to Ban the Box on San Francisco’s application for public employment was led by “All of Us or None,” a national organizing initiative of formerly incarcerated people.

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***“We cannot ask private employers to consider hiring former prisoners unless the city practices what it preaches”***

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“In 2005, the San Francisco Board of Supervisors approved a resolution initiated by All of Us or None calling for San Francisco to eliminate hiring discrimination against people with criminal records by removing the request for criminal history information on the initial job application for public employment,” the report said. “An individual’s past convictions can only be considered after an applicant has been identified as a finalist for a position. The exception is for those jobs where state or local laws expressly bar people with convictions from employment, in which case the city conducts its background review at an earlier stage of the hiring process.” Similar policies have been adopted in other Northern California cities such as East Palo

Alto, Berkeley, Richmond and Oakland. Oakland, working with All of Us or None, adopted the policy in 2010, per the NELP report. The report stated, “The city conducts background checks on applicants after a conditional offer, but only for those positions required by law or the city has made a ‘good faith determination’ that the position warrants it. The city also notifies the applicant of the potential adverse employment action, provides a copy of the background report and provides the applicant an opportunity to rebut the accuracy or relevancy of the background report.” Richmond’s new ordinance, according to the report, prohibits inquiry into an applicant’s criminal history at any time unless state or federal law requires a background investigation or the position has been defined as “sensitive.” San Francisco Supervisor Jane Kim wants to make this question, “Have you been convicted of a crime?” virtually obsolete on job applications in the city, the San Francisco Chronicle reported on Dec. 10, 2013. A Sacramento Bee headline on June 27, 2012 read: “A Job is Best Crime Prevention Program.” The Bee article said, “The job hunt is tough for everybody these days. But imagine having a criminal record. Many employers, including cities and counties, won’t consider hiring someone with a criminal past, no matter how long ago the crime was committed, how minor the offense might have been or how thoroughly the applicant has turned his life around.”

Legislature and the governor should work together to ensure Proposition 47 is implemented in an honest, timely manner, and should rebuff any law enforcement attempts to divert the money earmarked for rehabilitation and treatment to still more jail construction,” said Hopper. The state’s sentencing scheme needs re-evaluation, the ACLU report said. “It’s time for a comprehensive review of our penal code and sentencing laws, starting with the intricate web of sentencing enhancements that the Little Hoover Commission investigated in 2007 and declared ‘complex and confusing,’ with over 100 enhancements strewn throughout more than 20 separate statutes,” cited Hopper. “Perhaps it’s time for a sentencing commission...not controlled by the same law enforcement interests that have stymied reform for decades,” Hopper commented. “It’s time for a serious look at sentencing laws in California with an eye toward real reform and the same investment in innovation that drives our technology sector. And it is time to end, once and for all, the era of the politics of fear,” he added.

## Extra Harsh Sentences For Pregnant Women Slammed

By Isaiah Thompson-Bonilla  
Journalism Guild Writer

Women’s rights and civil liberties organizations are calling for the U.S. Department of Justice to renounce the practice of enhancing the sentences of women convicted of felonies while pregnant, particularly those with drug convictions. Jessica Pieklo, senior legal analyst for the news blog RH Reality Check, reported on the criminalization of pregnancy. Pieklo highlighted a case involving Lucy Weld of Dandridge, Tenn., who received a sentence of 151 months in prison for conspiracy to manufacture methamphetamine. Presiding Judge Thomas Varlan announced at sentencing that Weld would receive an additional six years because her crime was committed while she was pregnant. Following Weld’s sentencing, U.S. Attorney William Killian issued a statement supporting the judge’s decision. “Through this prosecution, the U.S. Attorney’s Office sends a message that, should a child, born or unborn, be exposed to a substantial risk of harm through the manufacture of methamphetamine, we will pursue any available enhancements at sentencing.” A coalition of organizations seeking drug reform policies, women’s rights and civil liberties said in a letter to Attorney General Eric Holder that changes to the current sentencing structure should be made to renounce enhancement penalties. Seventeen states and the District of Columbia were represented by organizations concerned with the change of the current practice. These organizations argue that sentences that are enhanced due to pregnancy are contrary to science and evidence-based research, which shows the punishing of pregnant drug offenders harms public

health, Pieklo reported. “Opening the door to enhanced penalties for pregnant women will unquestionably make women of color — a group already subject to extraordinary disproportionality in criminal punishment and sentencing — even more vulnerable to state and federal control and punishment,” said Cherisse Scott, founder and CEO of the Tennessee-based organization SisterReach. In April, the Tennessee Legislature passed Senate Bill 1391, an amendment to the state’s fetal homicide law. This law allows the judicial system to prosecute women for the illegal use of narcotics during pregnancy, if her child is born addicted to or harmed by the narcotic drug. The bill was an amendment to the previous law that favored the decriminalization policies concerning pregnant women and drug convictions. Legislators passed the Safe Harbor Act in 2013, giving women that are pregnant the opportunity to seek treatment for their addiction. The incentive for joining the program was retaining custody of their children. However, the passing of SB 1391 allows state district attorneys the leverage they need to bring criminal charges against these women under the current law. Coalition members wrote a letter to the Department of Justice, asking that it publicly acknowledge and denounce enhanced penalties for women who are pregnant during the commission of a crime. “The action supported by the federal prosecutor in Tennessee is based on the profoundly discriminatory principle that pregnant women may be subject to separate, unequal and harsher penalties than others,” wrote Lynn Paltrow, executive director of National Advocates

for Pregnant Women. If charged under the law, a woman could face a maximum penalty of 15 years in prison. “Becoming pregnant and either continuing or terminating a pregnancy is a fundamental right for which no person should be subject to punishment directly or through enhanced penalties,” Paltrow concluded. California voters clearly want an end to excessive prison sentences and the “politics of fear,” the American Civil Liberties Union of Northern California concludes with the overwhelming approval of Proposition 47. “The Proposition 47 victory is a repudiation of four decades of tough-on-crime policies, and marks the end of the era of politics of fear,” the ACLU’s Allen Hopper said in a Nov. 7 news release. Nearly 60 percent voted in favor of the change, sending “a loud message” to Sacramento, Hopper commented. “The question is whether our political leaders in Sacramento are listening.” “Voters want smart criminal justice strategies and recognize that longer sentences, especially for low-level, non-violent crimes, have not made our communities safer,” wrote Hopper, director of criminal justice and drug policy for the ACLU of California. “California’s recidivism rate, one of the highest in the country, is perhaps the best indicator of the degree to which

## Prop. 47 Win Sent a Message

*‘The Proposition 47 victory is a repudiation of four decades of tough-on-crime policies, and marks the end of the era of politics of fear’*

By David Eugene Archer Sr.  
Journalism Guild Writer

the state’s harsh sentencing laws have utterly failed to keep any of us safe over the past 40 years of prison and jail expansion, constantly ratcheted-up punishment and the abandonment of even a pretense of rehabilitation as a component of criminal justice,” he wrote. Hopper noted the Legislature failed to act and “for far too long, the politics of fear and the power of the law enforcement lobby have dominated Sacramento.” “Sen. Mark Leno (D-San Francisco) tried twice...to pass bills similar to, though much more moderate than, Proposition 47. (He) was unable to get a bill reducing the penalty for simple possession of drugs from a felony to a misdemeanor out of his own chamber, due to the opposition of the statewide associations of sheriffs, police chiefs and district attorneys”, Hopper wrote. Gov. Jerry Brown vetoed a compromise bill that would have made similar changes. Proposition 47 was an initiative designed to do the same thing — reclassify many minor crimes from felonies to misdemeanors. “Lawmakers must abide by the will of the people...The



# Jai Uttal Performs ‘Music From the Heart’

By Gino Sevacos  
Journalism Guild Writer

The Music from the Heart devotional concert services hosted Grammy-nominated artist Jai Uttal in the Catholic Chapel for the fourth time on Dec. 7.

Those who attended were encouraged to chant sacred Sanskrit mantras along with the musicians.

According to Jai, “Mantras mean that which transforms the mind. When we sing mantras, the mind comes back to the heart.”

Kirtan is a particular style of singing that has become popular in devotional circles. Jai is considered one of its foremost exponents. “Kirtan,” said Jai, “is when you sing phrases that are names for God. They are sung with music and rhythm. The essence is God’s name. Singing is the meditation.”

Jai’s drummer, Radhanath, played intricate rhythms on a two-headed clay drum that hung like a guitar over his shoulder. In Sanskrit it is called a mridanga-anga (body) mri (earth). Radhanath exuded confidence, grace, passion and devotion as he playfully danced while singing love songs to God. When asked to perform repeated solos, he energized the audience with his expert hand drumming. “Kirtan is being sung all around the world. Holy places (temples) in India are crowded now because Westerners are taking an interest in Kirtan,” he said.

One of the many Kirtans

taught to the men during the performance was “Om Namah Shivaya,” a popular Sanskrit chant. When asked what it meant, Jai explained that one translation is “Thy will be done.” For more literal translations, he said that “Shiva (God) is the Lord of transformation and assists us from darkness to light. Om is believed to be the first word of creation, Namah means ‘bow to’ and Shivaya represents the ocean of mercy and benevolence.” It translates to ‘I bow to God within.’”

Jai played a small organ-like instrument called a harmonium while his powerful melodic voice rang out clearly through the chapel. When asked why he sang in Sanskrit, an ancient language, he replied, “I love Sanskrit mantras. Words are another form of God. The spirit of God is there.” Jai’s personal experience is that “Art and music in India are designed to open the heart and connect with Spirit. I see every instrument that one can play can be devotional music for God.”

In an interview afterward, Jai was asked how Kirtan affected his life. His reply: “It’s saved my life. I was deeply into drug addiction and drinking, and Kirtan maintained a thread of connection to God. It pulled me out of that life.” He went on to say, “Yoga practice is expanding and Kirtan is so linked to yoga. Kirtan addresses the anguish of the heart, and our society is becoming desperate.”

The female vocalist in the per-



File photo

Jai Uttal’s music aims ‘to open the heart and connect with spirit’

forming trio, Kalimba, appeared peaceful and poised as she sang accompaniment. In her words, “It’s like an honor to come back because people are consciously working on themselves. The truth is we are already incarcerated in a human body. But people in prison are aware they’re incarcerated, and there’s an opportunity to better oneself.”

Jesuit Father George Williams

and San Quentin facilitator and Chaplin Intern Susan Shannon are the co-creators of the Sunday evening devotional concert series. She was questioned how she thought the San Quentin community received Jai.

“I knew Jai would be a good fit. His love of all the faces and names of God come through his voice. The point of these devotional music nights is to create

and unite us all with the resonance of our hearts, all responding to that oneness of love and joy which is available to us when we do our inner work together. My hope is that we sing together and resonate with that light of devotion. This is such an inner and outer blessing, which promotes healing and interconnectedness between all of us present, and all of us not present.”

## Senseless Laws Resulting in Harsh Penalties

By Rahsaan Thomas  
Staff Writer

Several well-meaning laws lack common sense, resulting in inflexible, harsh penalties.

That is the conclusion reached by Jonathan Blanks in the *Post*

*Everything* website of *The Washington Post* newspaper.

Some broad statutes have created “a system that can’t distinguish grown men from school-children, serial rapists from amorous teens or drug mules from kingpins. Such a system

is dysfunctional —stupid even,” wrote Blanks in his June 25 article titled *America’s Stupidest Criminal Laws*.

For example, some Drug-Free School Zone laws punish selling, manufacturing and sometimes just possessing illicit drugs

within a specified distance of a school, park or daycare center with a higher punishment for the underlying drug offense.

Many black and Hispanic neighborhoods with high populations have overlapping zones, negating any deterrent effect and slanting enforcement against minority communities, Blanks noted. Heavy penalties are applied whether or not kids are involved and even if school is out for the summer.

Sex offender registries can include someone convicted of public urination or a 17- or 18-year-old who had consensual sex with a 15- or 16-year-old girlfriend or boyfriend. Thereby, hard line laws against child predators could bar the wrong people from certain areas, he pointed out.

can get awfully expensive.

Many states have amended their Drug-Free School Zone laws. Some reduced the penalty; others require the offense to be “at least tangentially tied to exposing children to the drug trade.” Still others have lowered the law’s geographical reach, according to the Sentencing Project, wrote Blanks.

The Smarter Sentencing Act would reduce some mandatory minimum penalties for non-violent drug offenders, if passed into law. Sen. Mike Lee, R-Utah, and Richard Durbin, D-Ill., proposed the act in the U.S. Senate.

The U.S. Sentencing Commission is also considering if recent sentence reductions for all non-violent drug offenses should apply retroactively to all applicable federal inmates. More than 50,000 may be eligible, which could save hundreds of millions of dollars.

“Throwing the book at offenders with well-meant but misguided lawmaking has wreaked havoc on correctional budgets while breaking up families and damaging local economies in the process,” wrote Blanks.

He urges policymakers let judges decide who is punished and how severely, instead of blind punishment. Such a system could lead to fewer mistakes than subjecting everyone to the inflexible categorical judgment of legislators and prosecutors, concluded Blanks.

## Medical Strike Team Created

Continued from Page 1

tution. Each unit will maintain cleaning supplies, hazardous material equipment and clothing in a designated keyed locker to be used if the problem should occur in the building.

- North Block has three Strike Team members.
- Eight specially trained handicap helpers will respond to the Reception Center, if there is an outbreak in that unit.
- West Block will be assigned three Strike Team members.
- H-Unit has two Strike Team members standing by to handle any epidemic problem.
- East Block has five Strike Team members trained and ready to activate any clean up on Death Row.
- The North Segregation Unit has two Strike Team members standing down until any one of the above commu-

nicable diseases affects that unit.

In case of a cell contamination, the inmate affected will be removed from his cell by the medical staff, while the cell is decontaminated. They are treated appropriately. For example, in a scabies case, the inmate is showered and treated with ointment, and all clothes and linens are replaced. The inmate is returned to his cell, isolated until the final shower and linen exchange is completed the next day.

In some cases, the inmate might be medically isolated in another cell while the strike team decontaminates the cell. An example of this is chickenpox, which requires the inmate to be moved to a negative pressure room for isolation.

The Strike Team will be notified immediately of a contamination event in their respective unit. They should respond within 30 to 60 minutes. Each Strike Team member will dress in a special hazardous material suit, which may include gloves, mask and

shoes. The cleaning materials and disposal bags will be obtained from the keyed locker.

All the bedding, clothing, and personal properties will be removed from the contaminated areas and placed outside the cell. Contaminated linen will be placed in water-soluble bags and yellow “infectious linen bags” and sent to the laundry sealed.

Personal items, if contaminated, may have to be bagged and sealed or discarded, based on public health recommendations. The Strike Team will clean and wash down the lower and upper bunk, walls, bars, toilet units, sinks and floors. The entire cell will be given a thorough cleansing.

Graham, Tabor, LVN Sepulveda and Pulido want the San Quentin population to know the Strike Team is ready. They urge personnel not to hesitate to report to the medical staff any symptoms associated to these diseases.

For further information, contact your unit lieutenant.

—By Charles David Henry



# ‘Wrongful Convictions Go Against Fundamental Freedoms as Americans’

By James R. Abernathy Jr.  
Journalism Guild Writer

America needs to change investigative practices and the criminal justice culture to avoid wrongful convictions, delegates to a Wrongful Conviction Summit concluded.

“Wrongful convictions go against the fundamental freedoms we value as Americans,” said delegate Walter A. McNeil, president of the International Association of Chiefs of Police, which sponsored the summit.

Eyewitness identifications can lead to wrongful convictions, the summit noted.

“Even after an identification is made, the investigation should continue to make sure that the actual offender has been identified,” the August 2013 summit report stated.

The summit was held in Alexandria, Va., to examine issues surrounding wrongful arrests, prosecutions and convictions.

More than 75 subject matter experts from law enforcement, the justice system and the community participated in the summit. Participants were divided into four different working groups: making rightful arrests; correcting wrongful arrest; technology and forensic issues; and re-examining closed cases.

The purpose and challenge of each group was to develop policy recommendations that could be applicable in jurisdictions across the nation. Such national strategy would reduce the number of wrongful arrests, prosecutions and convictions nationwide.

The group noted technologies such as advanced forensic science and hand-held electronics that capture voice and video data are clearly the future of investigative excellence.

One critical theme developed was the need for all justice system agencies to be open to new information. This means being open to new information received or developed at any point in the investigation – arrest, prosecution, trial and court appeal.

Office of Justice Programs Acting Attorney General Mary Lou Leary asked attendees of the August 2012 summit to put themselves in the shoes of someone wrongly convicted. She also emphasized how deeply disturbing that experience is for a wrongly convicted person, and the challenges they face seeking to prove their innocence.

Major topics included:

## FUNDING AND RESOURCES

Many jurisdictions lack the appropriate budget, officers, detectives and the most advanced technology and equipment needed for investigations, the report said.

With neighboring jurisdictions sharing their resources or the establishment of a statewide fund to create equal funding among jurisdictions, the recommendation of uniform standards in addressing wrongful convictions could be more easily implemented.

## OVERCOMING THE CHALLENGES

Summit participants identified and discussed in detail key features of a climate that encourages investigations that are more thorough and fewer wrongful convictions.

Some of the key features discussed were: greater communication, increased and improved assessment, stronger investigative protocols, frequent and improved training of law enforcement and prosecutors, greater supervision and better case review prior to the finalization of arrest and prosecution decisions.

## COMMUNICATION

Increased and improved communication among law enforcement officers, investigators, prosecutors, defense attorneys, judges, victims, victims’ advocates and the community at large is one key to resolving wrongful arrests, prosecutions and convictions.

## ASSESSMENT

The questioning of the original direction of a case between law enforcement officers and the prosecutors is needed and should be accepted and welcomed as a proper investigative protocol.

A culture shift where investigators are open to case assessment and review by supervisors and what summit participants envisioned as “wrongful arrest risk-assessment tools” are also needed. Intelligent dialogue, including the admittance of uncertainty and mistakes, needs to be an expected part of any good investigation.

The following is a summarized reconfiguration of the summit discussions and 30 final policy recommendations formatted into more global topics:

## UNDERSTANDING THE CHALLENGES

The majority of wrongful arrests, prosecutions and convictions result from multiple factors together creating dysfunction. According to the Innocence Project, in cases where DNA exonerated the convicted person the wrongful conviction can be linked to one or more of the following: eyewitness misidentification; forensic science inaccuracies and unreliable measures; false confessions; and inaccurate informant testimony.

*“Even after an identification is made, the investigation should continue to make sure that the actual offender has been identified”*

Studies show that a high percentage of exonerations are based on eyewitness misidentification. These wrongful identifications often result in the pursuit of a perceived suspect and less consideration given to other possible suspects. This over-reliant approach opens the door to a host of investigative and prosecutorial mistakes to be made.

## INVESTIGATIVE ENVIRONMENT

The work environment of both law enforcement and prosecutors is not always conducive to the examination of evidence or the direction of an investigation while exercising healthy skepticism. This challenge is due to the inherent pressure upon the justice system to quickly identify, arrest, prosecute and convict violent offenders.

In particular, the investigative process in high-profile cases is constantly under scrutiny by victims, the media and governing body officials. This may cause premature acceptance of inaccurate information as fact.

In preventing or correcting wrongful convictions, law enforcement and prosecutors must be more cautious and examine, without emotion, the evidence that points to or away from a particular individual.

Summit participants urged investigators to make every effort

to identify errors before or while traveling down a particular investigative path.

## TRAINING

Limited resources, or the lack thereof, is a common challenge in the training of law enforcement personnel. For instance, the unavailability of opportunities, funding and staffing may not allow employees to attend critical training sessions pertinent to their respective department or agency.

The potential and effectiveness of law enforcement personnel are stymied by these limitations. Regions and states must share more resources, network and be more inclusive of others in their training offerings.

## THE WRONGFUL ARREST RISK-ASSESSMENT GUIDE

An innovative approach discussed by the summit participants was the development of a “Wrongful Arrest Risk-Assessment Guide” used to reduce wrongful arrest.

Features of the risk-assessment tool include leveraging knowledge from prior research. This involves law enforcement investigators questioning information such as: Does the case revolve around a single eyewitness identification? Is critical information being provided by jailhouse informant? Was forensic evidence properly collected? Is the forensic analysis reliable?

## INVESTIGATIVE PROTOCOLS

The implementation of investigative protocols helps to prevent investigative bias, overload and auto-pilot behaviors.

Protocols will also foster greater accountability, investigatory support and assurance in the consistent application of standards in each case.

## POST-ARREST, POST-CONVICTION REVIEW

Although it may be challenging to obtain resources to examine closed cases, these challenges cannot become excuses to allow potentially wrongfully convicted persons to remain unjustly incarcerated.

A victim-focused support system must be put in place to prepare victims in understanding why a case might be reopened and re-evaluated. This ensures that the victims understand the motivations and reasoning for correcting a wrongful arrest, prosecution and conviction.

In similar contrast, the wrongfully convicted need and deserve significant support when learning that their case is being re-evaluated and possibly overturned. This is necessary to prepare the wrongfully convicted to re-enter society completely exonerated of the crime.

In summary, the welcoming of intelligent dialogue, critique and self-assessment, proper training, carefully considered protocols and review process will greatly serve to transition the law enforcement culture.

In doing so, these efforts will foster the absolute best practices in policing and law enforcement’s commitment to protecting the welfare of the society they serve.

Participations included: Ilse Knecht, deputy director of public policy for the National Center for Victims of Crime; Mike Corey, chief of police, Brownwood, Texas, Police Department; Kristine Hamann, executive assistant district attorney, New York City; Russell Canan, judge, Superior Court Criminal Division, Washington, D.C., and Barry Scheck, professor of law, Benjamin N. Cardozo School of Law, Yeshiva University, and co-founder and co-director, Innocence Project.

# Inmate Firefighters Working In Dangerous Conditions

Continued from Page 1

33, just outside Georgetown. This is where the inmates live and work as part of the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation to become firefighters.

In this camp, the report talks about Daniel O’Connor, 26, who is serving his fourth year of a five-year sentence for a DUI with great bodily injury. If he were not in this camp, he would be doing his time in prison.

O’Connor said fighting large fires “feels like you’re in a war zone sometimes. Just planes everywhere, flames are right there.” He also said, “You don’t know whether the flames are going to overtake you. It gets kind of scary.”

The report talked about the assistant camp commander, Sgt. Gerald Hoff. Before trans-

ferring to the camp, he worked at Pelican Bay State Prison. Hoff says the atmosphere at the camp is much different from that of a California state prison.

Hoff also said that gang violence or racial tension have no place in the camp — “they sleep together, they eat together,” Hoff said. Like other firefighters, they can also save lives, he added.

The Journal reported that fighting wildfires requires cohesive teamwork. Inmates have to rely on one another in very dangerous life-threatening conditions.

The Growlersburg camp has 112 inmates but can support 132. All inmate volunteer fire teams are trained at CAL FIRE facilities. The volunteers must pass a battery of physical fitness tests.

The department has 44 fire camps, which saves the state an enormous amount of money, the newspaper noted.

# Local Prisons and Jails Costing Billions

*‘Between 2005 and 2011, total spending by local governments fluctuated between \$1.6 trillion and \$1.7 trillion’*

Continued from Page 1

Capital outlay expenditures include major repairs of institutions, constructions and purchase of equipment having a useful life of more than five years.

Local governments outspent

state government in capital outlay expenditures from a low 34.1 percent in 2005 to a high 56.4 percent in 2010.

“Between 2005 and 2011, local governments annually spent the largest percentage of funds on education (36.0 percent to 38.4 percent), followed

by health care and hospitals (7.3 percent to 7.7 percent), police protection (4.9 percent to 5.0 percent), highways (3.7 percent to 4.0 percent), public welfare (3.2 percent to 3.5 percent), and judicial-legal services (1.3 percent to 1.4 percent),” the report stated.

# Combined Banquet Links S.Q. Print and Broadcast Groups

By William Drummond  
San Quentin News Adviser

The San Quentin media community is headed into a new year with a commitment to forge new relationships between the print and broadcast communication entities in the prison.

The new communications era was launched informally Dec. 18 in the media building at San Quentin State Prison where print and broadcast practitioners held a joint banquet. The purpose was to celebrate a successful 2014 and welcome to a new year with hope and expectations for growth and success.

The San Quentin News staff and the members of the TV/Audio/Video department combined forces to provide food for 34 persons. All were inmates, except for this writer,

## EDITORIAL

who attended at the invitation of Arnulfo Garcia, San Quentin News editor-in-chief.

Garcia said he hoped the shared meal would be the beginning of many more collaborations ahead in 2015 for the newspaper and the men in the electronic media department.

The two programs operate in the same building and share a common entryway. But until now they have gone their separate ways, divided by a wall and a glass partition window.

The sharing of talent, content and expertise between the print side and the electronic media side would enhance the training experience for all the participants.

The informational products

that result would do a better job of telling the San Quentin story to inmates and the public at large, he said. Projects being discussed include radio programming and video.

The word “banquet” does not do the Dec. 18 event justice.

It was a feast of mackerel stew, meat logs, pork sausages, nacho chips, tortillas, refried beans, chili beans, cheese, ja-

lapeños and much rice.

The drinks were sodas, both sugared and sugar-free.

Before the food was served, the prisoners blessed the food, in a Christian invocation, even though the guests included Muslims, Jews, Buddhists and assorted others.

The meal offered several dietary options: no meat, no pork, no shell fish, fish only. As befits San Quentin’s diverse population, the men were black, Mexican, white and Asian. They sat shoulder-to-shoulder around a big table in the lounge

area behind the work space and talked congenially.

The media building has no kitchen. The food was prepared in that very room, beginning early in the morning. The cooks filled plastic pails with hot water as a low-budget, but effective crock pot.

This was the medium by which all the food was cooked. If you opted for fish only, the server used a plastic cup to pile you a heap of rice, then you moved down the line and another server used a plastic cup to lay a mound of mackerel stew atop your rice.

“Never has spicy mackerel stew, Vera Cruz-style, been served so simply, nor enjoyed so humbly. It was delicious. And the participants agreed that the service was excellent,” said Juan Haines.

# Inmates Facing Immigration Hold Upon Release

By David Eugene Archer Sr.  
Journalism Guild Writer

More than a dozen California counties have stopped honoring requests from immigration agents to hold potentially deportable inmates beyond the length of their jail terms, saying the practice may expose local sheriffs to liability, the *Los Angeles Times* reports.

The counties include Los Angeles, San Diego, Riverside and San Bernardino, which have stopped complying with ICE detainers.

A federal court ruling in April 2014 found an Oregon county liable for damages. The case involved an immigrant from Mexico named Maria Miranda Olivares who completed a jail sentence, but was kept for an additional 19 hours on a federal hold at the request of immigration agents, the newspaper reported on June 1.

“Lawyers for the county argued ... the sheriff was required to hold her. The judge disagreed, saying ICE detainers are not mandatory and did not demonstrate probable cause. The judge said the county was liable for damages,” the newspaper stated.

California counties are among 100 governmental entities across the country that have stopped the practice since the ruling, according to the Immigrant Legal Resource Center, an advocacy group.

President Obama’s immigration enforcement strategy could be impaired, say analysts.

Hiroshi Motomura, an immigrant law professor at UCLA, said, “It’s very significant because it represents a reduction of the involvement of local police in federal immigration enforcement.”

“It’s not just political anymore. It’s about liability,” Motomura said. He said the decision of the Los Angeles County Sheriff’s Department was especially noteworthy. That is because of the large number of L.A. prisoners who could be affected by ICE detainer orders.

Federal statistics show more than 33,000 people in custody in L.A. County have been deported since August 2009. This is due to a federal program known as Secure Communities.

Fingerprints of inmates booked by local law enforcement are checked against federal immigration databases. ICE agents can ask police to hold inmates 48 hours to take them into custody.

In the fall of 2013, Gov. Jerry Brown signed the Trust Act. It instructs local officials to honor ICE detainers only when inmates have been charged or convicted of a serious offense.

San Diego County Sheriff Bill Gore has stopped honoring ICE detainers after consultation with county attorneys about the Oregon case. He said it was too risky to hold inmates for ICE. Instead, he said his department will notify federal agents when inmates who have been flagged for potential immigration violations are released.

“If they want them, they can come and get them,” Gore said. “We don’t have to hold them for 48 hours.”

Sheriffs from some counties, including Kern and Orange, continue honoring ICE detainer orders, the *Times* reported.

Immigrant rights advocates have pushed back again detainers, saying they are unconstitutional and have eroded trust in police among immigrant communities.

## ‘The Value of Humanity Starts at Home’ Letters to the Editor

Dear OG,

My name is Aminah Dorsey, a female inmate housed in the Central California Women’s Facility in Chowchilla, CA. I am submitting my thoughts to your article (9/2014) titled “Capitalism and the Value of Humanity.” I hope that you find my views helpful. Take care and I’m looking forward to reading more from you soon.

Sincerely,  
Aminah Dorsey

### The Value of Humanity Starts at Home

Men today are not held accountable to any standards when it comes to being an “authentic” man. Boys were at one time groomed into the role of responsible men, but today many parents encourage/promote laziness, co-dependency

and an inclination towards the getting needs met even at the cost of others. Many young men have no respect/appreciation for women and are not being motivated to make anything meaningful out of their lives.

Unfortunately, many women don’t demand more out of men, choosing instead to accept them as is, B.S. and all. Women tolerate their husbands’ failure to maintain employment, playing video games in the bedroom and having multiple affairs.

You stated, “Women often feel pressured to accept and participate in their own exploitation.” Pressured? As a woman myself I propose an alternative. At some time or another in many women’s lives, their self-esteem and self-worth are compromised, creating insecurities. Somewhere along the way a distorted belief system

was set in place that changed women’s perceptions as to what a man should be, do and how they are expected to treat us.

To discern that the young man on the lower yard felt the young lady’s “body was an entitlement, a return of his investment – part of the “Deal” “is distorted thinking. American capitalism is no excuse for the failure of our relationships. In my opinion, the young guy harbored such a selfish, immature thought primarily because of the low levels of expectations women have held him to. Women with no self-esteem or self-worth have left an unfavorable imprint on the beliefs of men today. An unsavory impression has been engrained that it’s a man’s due to somehow “own” a woman’s body for the low, low price of a few drinks and a meal.

## ‘VPASS’: Convenient or Complicated? ‘The ritual of setting up visits so far has been a nightmare’

My friend just got into San Quentin, and the ritual of setting up visits so far has been a nightmare.

I got the VPASS immediately, but then to make appointments could be deemed nearly impossible. He is in non-contact status, which appears to be a separate system from the on-line system in VPASS but there is no info given there either as to what to do.

Finally after being cleared for

two months by VPASS, I came across the number to call, (415) 455-5022, and made my first appointment ... When trying to make another one for the next week, I called early Sunday and was put on hold for just over an hour when I gave up. Every minute I got the message “All officers are busy taking calls for visiting. Please stay on the line ...”

I finally called the general number again (415) 454-1460

and was told that they were having a problem with that line again, and that after 11 a.m. the line was closed and there was no way to make one for next week.

Really now, we have to be able to do better than that. You say out of one side of the mouth that visiting is important to inmates, but then –

Duke Holtz, commented on the San Quentin News Feedback page.

### Website Offers Help to Families of Those Incarcerated

A new and free search engine, [www.PrisonPath.com](http://www.PrisonPath.com), provides information for the public. The site helps users in clarifying confusion and fear of the unknown when a loved one is charged and arrested, or sentenced to imprisonment in the United States. PrisonPath provides information including the ability to find a person incarcerated, visitation rules, contact numbers, and more about every American prison or jail. It also allows families and friends of inmates to communicate with each other on a specific page.



# Human Rights Watch: Elizabeth Calvin Continues Advocacy for Juvenile Justice Reform

## Kid C.A.T. Speaks

By Miguel Quezada  
Kid C.A.T. Columnist

When Elizabeth Calvin decided to dedicate herself to reforming juvenile sentencing laws in California her boss asked, "Are you going to spend your life's blood on something that will benefit so few people?"

Calvin's response was an unequivocal, "yes."

The reform in question was California Senate Bill 9 (Yee) which would retroactively affect 300 inmates that were under the age of 18 when they committed their crimes and sentenced to Life without the Possibility of Parole (LWOP).

For Calvin, who is the Senior Advocate in the Children's Rights Division of Human Rights Watch, passing SB9

represented "part of a bigger mosaic of efforts nationwide in how we treat children and youth who are accused of crimes." The momentum from this victory proved to be influential.

Indeed, SB 260 (Hancock) would follow the passage of SB9. This law would affect the other 6,500 inmates who also were under the age of 18 when they committed their crimes but were sentenced as adults – many to life.

Calvin was key to the passage of another bill, SB 260. Effective Jan. 1, 2014, this law establishes

a unique parole process for an additional 6,500 inmates in California who were under the age of 18 at the time of their crime but sentenced as adults. Many were sentenced to life.

These bills represent the most significant change to sentencing law for youths sentenced as adults. In the prior decade, "tough on crime laws" made it possible to sentence juveniles as young as 14 as adults. "What we heard... was that these people serving life without parole are the worst of the worst, [that] they are monsters." This sentiment represented the political and public beliefs that Calvin and her colleagues were up against. "I realized that to succeed, we needed to ensure people were not defining these men [and women]," Calvin said.

Calvin set out by leading a coalition of the University of Southern California's School of Law Post Conviction Clinic, the Youth Law Center, Friends Committee on Legislation, Youth Justice Coalition, and Kid C.A.T.

Calvin and Kid C.A.T. members sat down in 2011 with Senator Leland Yee to discuss the goals of SB9, and in 2013 Calvin, Jennifer Newsom, and Sen. Lonnie Hancock (D. Berkeley) met to discuss the importance of SB260. Kid C.A.T. members recounted their experiences as youth offenders, discussed their accountability and their work to make amends to society.

Calvin's success is now evident in the passage of SB9, SB260 and AB 1276 (Bloom).



Photo by Sam Hearnes

Elizabeth Calvin at the Kid CAT banquet

## State of the Youth Address

Kid C.A.T. would like to thank its sponsors, volunteers, supporters and the San Quentin Prison administration for helping to make 2014 a successful year for the group's mission and vision.

Accomplishments include "The Bay Area Hygiene Drive for Homeless Youth," which collected more than 315 hygiene kits to be distributed to homeless families and youth, and "The Amala Walk," which raised funds to sponsor youth from around the world to attend the Global Youth Peace Summit in Point Reyes National Seashore. ([info@AmalaFoundation.org](mailto:info@AmalaFoundation.org)). The group also held the inaugural "Kid C.A.T. & The Beat Within" writing workshop in which men shared their personal stories of positive transformation in hope of deterring youth from destructive lifestyles ([www.thebeatwithin.org](http://www.thebeatwithin.org)).

Looking forward, Kid C.A.T. will work to make 2015 one of its most successful years. As part of this goal, the group will introduce the first "The State of the Youth Address."

Kid C.A.T. recognizes that the issues youth face are symptoms of a much greater disease that afflicts society – an affliction where society often shifts blame to youth for becoming ill in the first place.

In response to the illness – be it substance abuse or a rising crime rate – societal treatment takes the form of laws and policies that are meant to cure. Instead, these forms of treatment inadvertently marginalize and criminalize youth.

In California in the 1990s this approach made it possible to try minors as young as 14 as adults and sentence them to serve prison terms ranging from life (adding 6,500 new inmates to state prisons) and to life without parole (LWOP) (adding 300 more new inmates) under laws such as Proposition 21, the Gang Violence and Juvenile Crime Prevention Act.

It is evident that these measures did not result in resolution. Instead, they culminated in the conditions that led state legislators to enact laws that seek to rectify the adverse impact of the legacy of tough-on-crime.

Kid C.A.T. understands that any social issues that impact all of society may overextend the available resources the state or

any local government can allocate toward prevention and programs.

***"Youth are more likely to join a gang than to be a member of a community service organization, to be incarcerated and placed on probation"***

President Obama's initiative, called "My Brother's Keeper," has a pledge of nearly \$200 million for the next five years. It supports minority youth at non-profits such as the 826 Valencia in San Francisco. The initiative backs underprivileged youth and private citizens that have invested millions of dollars and volunteer hours to be part of the solution.

The issues youth face are complex and evolve with technology and changing social structures that include cyber bullying; teen domestic violence; gangs; poverty; lesbian, gay, bi-sexual, transgender and queer (LGBTQ); homelessness; and an increase in new and more addictive designer drugs.

These complex issues combine to create a toxic environment in which youth are more likely to join a gang than to be a member of a community service organization, to be incarcerated and placed on probation or under other government supervision such as in group homes or foster care. The implications are long-term, affecting youth beyond their teenage years into adulthood. When minors are tried as adults, this subjects them to an adult criminal record that may bar them from employment and education opportunities and voting rights for their entire life and may hinder them from moving beyond their past to lead productive and healthy adult lives.

Kid C.A.T. envisions a society that is safe and peaceful where homes and communities provide healthy and loving environments so that youth can grow into successful and mature adults. This is why to improve

the state of youth, the public must be informed about the issues that affect their community. As a group that is dedicated to service, Kid C.A.T. encourages citizens to support local organizations and causes that serve to aid youth and families by donating to the local food bank or volunteering their time to local causes such as mentorship or tutoring programs.

According to its principles of mentorship, education and restorative practices, in 2015 Kid C.A.T. seeks to bring together all of the issues under the umbrella of Youth Justice Awareness Month (Y-Jam). This aims to have the month of October officially recognized as such in the state of California. This will encourage us all to Create Awareness Together. We wish you well in each of your endeavors.

–By Miguel Quezada

## Exposure to Violence Cripples Children's Ability to Function

By Nghiep Lam  
Kid C.A.T. Columnist

Exposure to violence is directly correlated to a child's inability to trust, and to heightened states of alertness, diminished impulse control and isolation, experts say.

Substance abuse, lack of empathy or concern for others and aggression also contribute, according to the report "Defending Childhood: Protect, Heal, Thrive."

The report is from the Attorney General's National Task Force on Children Exposed to Violence.

Children in the juvenile justice system are often viewed as beyond hope and uncontrollable, labeled oppositional, willfully irresponsible or unreachable, according to the task force.

The status quo of correction for children with behavioral issues is more often than not punishment, rather than assessment, screening or trauma-informed care, it finds.

The juvenile justice system in recent years has made an effort to restructure itself and to improve outcomes for children and their communities. However, the task force argues for implementing restorative justice and train-

ing to personnel so that they can handle mental health and substance abuse issues among youth.

Studies have shown that 65 percent of girls and 70 percent of boys in detention facilities have been diagnosed with multiple mental health disorders and nearly a quarter of youth in residential placements have attempted suicide.

For many youth, placement in these harsh detention facilities only worsens their problems, triggering memories of past or recent traumatic events, which can bring upon the symptoms of post-traumatic stress disorder, the report says.

Staffs in juvenile justice systems have been found to vary in their willingness to acknowledge the need for mental health and related services, the task force found.

An analysis of data from state agencies responsible for overseeing juvenile detention facilities found that between 2004 and 2007 there were approximately 12,000 documented reports of physical, sexual or emotional abuse by staff members – nearly 10 assaults per day, on average. The actual numbers are likely to be higher than recorded because children are often too

afraid to report such abuse, the report adds.

The studies analyzed by the Task Force have shown that there is a profound need for more effective measures of providing rehabilitation to youth who are incarcerated.

The Task Force made several recommendations, including:

- Upgrading standards in the juvenile justice system
- Abandoning practices that traumatize children
- Basing assessments on each child's needs
- Addressing needs of LGBT (lesbian, gay, bi-sexual, transgender) individuals in the juvenile justice system
- Implementing policies that keep children in school
- Ensuring legal representation to accused children, and
- Whenever possible, prosecuting children in the juvenile justice system instead of transferring their cases to adult court.

The Task Force says its recommendations could save hundreds of millions of dollars if implemented on a national scale. In addition, America would no longer be one of the few countries that incarcerate youth at such an alarming rate.

# Malachai Dads: Connecting Fathers With Children

*‘The work that the men were doing to reconnect with their family impacts the cycle of sons and daughters who might following their footsteps to prison’*

**By Juan Haines**  
**Managing Editor**

When Douglas Mann called home last Thanksgiving, he said he was surprised and elated at who was at his mother's house—his sister, great-niece and son. They met to reconcile their relationship.

"It was a milestone for my family," Manns said. "I credit Malachi Dads for this special day."

Malachi Dads is a faith-based Christian inmate self-help program that teaches inmates ways to interact and mend relations—particularly how to be better fathers.

On a Saturday morning about a dozen San Quentin inmates streamed in a church, filling a cluster of chairs. Sitting in a circle and opening with a prayer, they gather there for one reason: to learn to reconnect with their children.

Inmate Brent Avery with the help of facilitators from the local community; Otis Cole, Donald Mack, Melvin Piper, Alan Roberts, Rene Tovar, Chris Baily and Karl Davis puts Biblical lessons together for the participants.

"As a facilitator and alumni of Malachi Dads, it's an honor to be a part of how God is transforming the lives of men and turning the hearts of these fathers," Roberts said.

The weekly program originated at Louisiana State Penitentiary, more commonly known as Angola Prison.

"The men who take this class are experiencing God," said Cole. "These men are helping each other's families turn toward each other."

Currently, about 2.2 million children nation-wide have a parent behind bars, according to the U.S. Department of Justice. Children with an incarcerated parent are seven times more likely to end up in prison themselves, the DOJ reported. For many, the program fulfills a crucial role in strengthening families with an incarcerated parent.

Malachi Dads participants take a pledge to transform themselves in order to make an impact on future generations

of children. Informally structured, the sessions foster conversations on topics ranging from masculinity and the media to mental health.

The group functions as a space for inmates to express their emotions and frustrations, as well as support each other and exchange techniques on fostering family relations.

"The work that the men were doing to reconnect with their family impacts the cycle of sons and daughters who might be following their footsteps to prison," Cole said.

Cole began volunteering at San Quentin in 1999. He became inspired to create Malachi Dads after visiting the program during a trip to Angola, he said.

"It's here to stay," he said. "When we talk about this program at my church, others want to help."

According to Cole, family relationships for inmates tend to be "more strained" than other families. For some inmates, it might have been years since they last interacted with their loved ones, he said.

"Malachi Dads gives you tools to help communicate to loved ones. Holidays create an opportunity for family members to get together and mend fences," he said. "It takes a lot of give and take. Let your faith drive you."

"That's why they were in this class," he said. "You get out of this program what you put into it. Malachi Dads gives the men the chance to really connect with their children in the only way that's meaningful—a Godly way."

Avery asked the outside facilitators to discuss how they spent their Thanksgiving.

Facilitator, Mack told the class about the value of family gathering. "All of my family meets on Sundays at my brother-in-law's house, and there's always a meal for anyone who wants to eat."

Mack stressed that those gatherings gave him the opportunity to talk to his younger relatives about God. "Sure they were doing their thing," he said.

"But they hear stories about our lives. Even though it sometimes seem like they're not paying at-

tention to what we're saying to them, I know they're impacted by what they hear."

Roberts talked about the range of spiritual beliefs in his family. He said in spite of all the diversity, Christ is first for him. However, he said listening and learning from one another is good.

He said that the men partaking in Malachi Dads are fortunate. "Before we just existed," Roberts said. "Now we're living."

## Sesame Street Offers Tips For Incarcerated Parents

By Sesame Street

You will always be a parent. Even though you are incarcerated, you can still play an important role in your child's life. Try these actions to assure your child that you still care about her and will always be her parent.

Answering difficult questions:

- Your child may have trouble understanding why you're gone. There are ways you can answer this question truthfully and in ways that he can understand.

Where are you? "I'm in a place called prison [jail]. Grown-ups go to prison [jail] when they break a rule called a law. I'm not here because of anything you did. This is not your fault."

When will you be home? "I won't be home for a while. I'm waiting for more information and will let you know when I find out. I'd rather be home with you but know that wherever I am, I'm thinking about you."

Will I get to see you? If your child can visit:

- "You can visit me in prison once in a while. Your caregiver will let you know when. Between visits we can write letters and talk on the phone."

If your child cannot visit:

- "We may not be able to see each other often, but I want

"I wanted the men to hear what it's going to be like for me," Avery explained to the inmates. "We are not going to be in this place forever. I don't believe this is the end for us. One day in the future, we'll have the same experiences that we're hearing from Otis, Mack and Melvin."

Avery then asked the inmate if they had any "Kingdom stories?"

Kingdom stories are inmate weekly experiences regarding

how the lessons of Malachi Dads influenced their lives. The stories shared included telephoning and writing to family members, learning about insight gained through fellowshipping, and how to take criticism about being a careless person in a positive way.

The class ended with the showing of a DVD with a lesson on faith. "Do you have a mustard seed of faith? If so, nothing is impossible," the narrator said.



LITTLE Children  
BIG challenges: incarceration



you to know that I'm always thinking of you."

Connecting through visits:

- Seeing you can assure your child that you are OK. Here are some things you can do:

Help your child feel comfortable:

- Your child may feel nervous at first. Let her know you are happy to see her. Continue any rituals or customs you have together such as singing a song. Ask her questions about herself, such as:
- "What do you do with friends? What have you learned in school?"

Make the most of your time together:

- Take turns describing something you see and asking her to guess it; making funny faces; or discussing favorite colors, music, or sports teams.

Make goodbye easier:

- Saying goodbye is hard. Come up with a special phrase you both can say at bedtime or something you will both do at the same time each day even though you are apart. Good communication is one way to help support your child. Build a positive relationship with her caregiver so she experiences support and love from you both. Talk to your child's caregiver about visits, letters and phone calls.

## Sesame Street Ofrece Consejos Para Padres Encarcelados

Traducción Jorge Heredia

"Usted siempre será un padre," la guía afirma. "Aunque se encuentre encarcelado, usted puede todavía jugar un papel importante en la vida de su hijo."

Más Información puede ser obtenida online en: [sesamestreet.org/incarceration](http://sesamestreet.org/incarceration).

Usted será siempre un padre. Aunque usted se encuentre encarcelado, usted puede todavía jugar un papel importante en la vida de su hija(o). Trate de poner en práctica estas acciones para asegurarle a su hija que usted todavía se interesa por ella y que siempre será su padre.

Respondiendo preguntas difíciles. Su hijo puede que tenga problemas entendiendo el porque usted esta ausente. Existen maneras como usted puede contestar sus preguntas sinceramente y de formas en que el pueda entender.

¿Donde estas? "Estoy en un lugar llamado prisión [cárcel]. Los adultos van a prisión [cárcel] cuando ellos quebrantan una regla llamada ley. Yo no estoy aquí por algo que tu ayas hecho. Esto no es tu culpa."

¿Cuando volverás a casa? "No voy a estar en casa por un rato. Estoy esperando por más información y te lo haré saber en cuanto yo lo sepa. Preferiría estar en casa contigo más

quiero que sepas que donde quiera que yo este, estoy pensando en ti."

¿Podré ir a verte? Si su hijo puede visitarlo: "Tu puedes visitarme en prisión de ves en cuando. La persona encargada de cuidarte te hará saber cuando. Mientras tanto, podemos escribirnos cartas y hablar por teléfono." Si su hijo no puede visitarlo:

- "Pueda que no podamos vernos a menudo, pero quiero que sepas que siempre estoy pensando en ti."

Comunicándose a través de visitas. Mirarlo puede asegurarle a su hijo de que usted se encuentra bien. Estas son al-

gunas cosas que usted puede hacer:

- Ayude a su hijo a sentirse cómodo. Su hijo puede que se sienta nervioso al principio. Hágale saber a ella que usted esta feliz de mirarla. Continué cualquier ritual o costumbres que ustedes tengan juntos tal como cantar una canción. Hágale preguntas sobre ella, tal como:

- "Que haces con tus amigas? Que as aprendido en la escuela?"

Disfruten al máximo los momentos juntos. Tomen turnos describiendo algo que ustedes miren y dígale a ella que lo

adivine; haciendo muecas; o hablando de sus colores favoritos, música, o equipos deportivos.

Hága la despedida más fácil. Decir adiós es difícil. Trate de decirle alguna frase especial que ambos puedan decir a la hora de dormir o algo que ambos harán al mismo tiempo cada día aunque estén separados.

Buena comunicación es una manera de ayudar apoyando a su hija. Desarrolle una relación positiva con su niñera así para que ella sienta el apoyo y amor de ambos. Hable con la niñera de su hija(o) sobre las visitas, cartas, y llamadas telefónicas.



# Artist Ned Axthelm Shares Artistic Talents With the San Quentin Community

*His Mother Encouraged Him to Make Art With Visits to Museums*

By Tommy Winfrey  
Arts Editor

Ned Axthelm says he finds it rewarding to teach San Quentin and Solano prisoners the fine points of artistic painting.

"I like that art can enrich someone's life and that enrichment can be in different ways for different people. But there are still similarities amongst the differences, and I like being able to see those things," he said in a recent interview.

He began teaching San Quentin inmates about the art of painting a little over a year ago as part of the San Quentin Prison Arts Project. The project is sponsored by the William James Association.

Axthelm began his teaching career as a middle school teacher but decided he wanted to give his art career a shot. So he went back to school and earned a Master of Fine Arts degree from the Academy of Art University in San Francisco.

"I chose this school because they were more about the process of making art than just teaching about art," he explained.

He says going to school helped him to speed up the process of trial and error. Axthelm says in school he was given mentors to help shepherd him through the process, and this helped him a lot because he likes to ask questions.

Axthelm has been out of school for two years and considers his main medium to be oil paint, although he says he has made art in a lot of different mediums. He used to express himself through sculpture, and he has done quite a bit of painting in acrylics and watercolor.

When he was a child, Axthelm says his mother encouraged him to make art by taking him to see paintings in museums and showing him the possibility of making art existed.

"For as long as I can remember, I've always had my hand in art. I'm a visual person; some people are into music, well, I'm just not that guy."

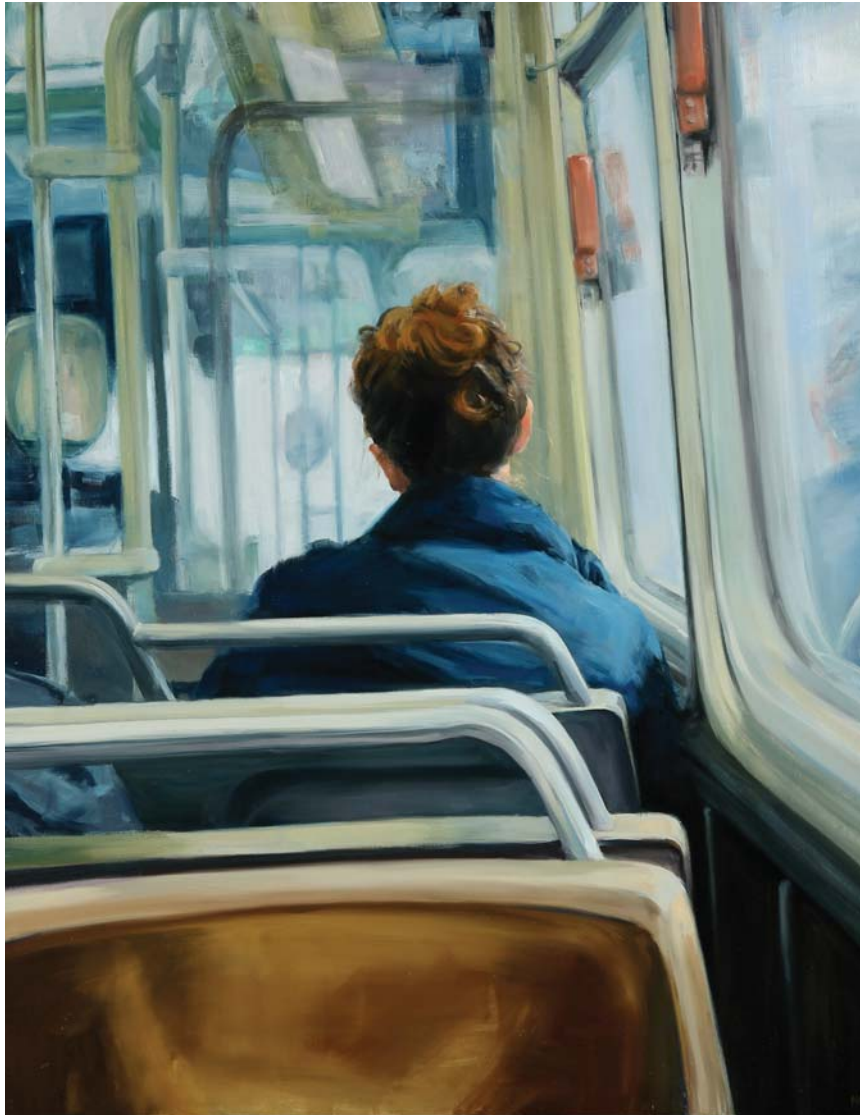
When Axthelm was teaching middle school, his art took a back seat because he says he was exhausted, and he only made art on the side. This has changed since he went back to school and earned his art degree.

The first year out of school he showed his work in more than 20 art shows, and just last year he showed his work in another 12 art shows.

"Art is a long-haul game," Axthelm admits. He knows he won't get rich overnight being an artist, but he has met his goals so far. "I can look back at the last two years and be proud of what I've done."

Axthelm says he got back into teaching when he started to make art full time, and he began to feel isolated. He sees art as a form of communication, and he missed the social interaction.

"Making art full time is a



Quiet Bus, oil on canvas, 40" x 32"

Photo by Ned Axthelm

solitary act," says Axthelm. He says he recognized his art would suffer from the lack of social in-

teraction.

When a position opened up to be a teaching artist inside

San Quentin, he went for it. "I decided to go with my intuition instead of trying to make a logi-

cal decision when I took this job, and it has been a good one."

He has enjoyed his time so much at San Quentin that when the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation awarded money to work with the California Arts Council to open up new art programs inside of other California prisons, he took on the task of opening a program in Solano.

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***"I like that art can enrich someone's life and that enrichment can be in different ways for different people. But there are still similarities amongst the differences"***

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Axthelm has been working for the past few months to get the new painting program up and running. "There are a few challenges to opening up a program like this, as you can imagine," says Axthelm. He says figuring out time, space and other logistics has been the hardest.

"There is not even a sink to wash out brushes," explained Axthelm. But he is not letting these details deter him. On Jan. 2, Axthelm opened up the first painting and drawing program at Solano.

The painting and drawing classes are being held in the visiting room along with a block printing class. He teaches two classes in Solano, one class for the Level II yards and another for the Level III yards.

He says he has 12 men in each class, but there is room for 16 men. He hopes that as the program becomes more established, both classes will fill up.

One of the issues that Axthelm may face in filling up the classes is that a prisoner has to be disciplinary-free for an extended period of time in order to be eligible to attend the class.

Part of the reason CDCR awarded funding for such programs is that previous studies have found that art programs in prison reduce disciplinary infractions. New programs like the one Axthelm is teaching in Solano will help to further study this effect.

Axthelm has recognized some important aspects of himself by teaching art in prison. "I've learned so much coming in here by being forced to communicate what I know." He has to explain to his students what he is doing as an artist and why he is doing it, instead of just applying paint to the canvas. He says this has been an important lesson for him.



Reading the Train, oil on canvas, 22.5" x 30"

Photo by Axthelm



# Positive Ripple Effects of San Quentin's Restorative Justice Movement

By **Rahsaan Thomas**  
Staff Writer

The Restorative Justice movement – aimed at healing crime victims, offenders, their families and the community – has rippled out of San Quentin State Prison into use with juveniles in schools.

"A handful of people can and do make a difference," said community member Rose Elizondo during a recent Restorative Justice symposium in San Quentin.

"A lot of this started here.

Malachi (Gary Scott, former sports editor of San Quentin News) was somebody who was locked up, paroled and then we co-founded the North Oakland Restorative Justice Council," she added.

"Parolee Kevin Tinsdale wants to start a RJ reentry house. The idea for the juvenile lifer group Kid C.A.T. happened in a healing circle. It's just beautiful, these ripple effects."

Restorative Justice is about dealing with criminal wrongdoing in a way that focuses on

restoration instead of a punishment, which often does more harm than good.

The San Quentin RJ group started in 2004 and is expanding inside and outside the walls.

"I'm planning to be a public defender, and I think that there is a lot of room in the criminal justice system for incorporating RJ principles," said Olivia Taylor, a UC Berkeley Law school student. "I also want to use it in my personal life. People avoid talking about uncomfortable things in private life, but it's really cathartic."

"We are all wise men for going through this prison experience," said inmate Dwight Krizman. "Most people have not gone through this and gained this insight."

Master of ceremonies Louis Scott read an article called *Restorative Justice has Become a Vital Tool for School*, by Fania E. Davis, at the Dec. 13 event.

The article said Oakland Youth's use of Restorative Justice in middle schools has reduced suspension rates by 87 percent, reduced violence and teacher attrition and improved academic outcomes.

The school board adopted Restorative Justice as official policy in 2010 and its concepts are used in about 30 Oakland schools. A school district report states that from 2011-2014:

- Suspensions of African-American students for defiance decreased by 40 percent,
- Harm was repaired in 70 percent of the cases of conflict circles,
- Students were learning to talk instead of fight through differences at home and at school,
- Graduation rates and test scores were increasing while chronic absence and dropout rates were decreasing.

Oakland's Community Works West reports it has launched a restorative diversion pilot that is dramatically reducing recidivism.

People in the North Oakland RJ Council paint murals, plant trees and facilitate healing circles after youth homicides. Police and probation officers are being trained in restorative justice principles, according to the article.

Guest speaker Orlando Bishop is a founder of Shade Tree Multi-Culture Foundation. The foundation has been active for 20 years and has trained mentors working throughout the U.S., Mexico, Europe, Germany, Sweden, West and South Africa and Brazil.

"I absolutely think it's making a difference," said Bishop.

He works with people in Los Angeles, mentoring and helping them leave the gang life. He aided in negotiating the 1992 peace treaty between Bloods and Crips that lasted 12 years in Watts.

Bishop's teachings come from a mix of Zulu, Western



File photo

Orlando Bishop

and other philosophies. He spoke about his method called the Genesis Pathway. It starts with acknowledging the power of your word.

"When I express my word through my deeds, I'm giving you something that's part of me. It gives power to agreements," said Bishop.

Bishop also expounded on how learning about ancestors is important because it influences the human capacity to have a connection to something much larger.

"My life is an extension of other people's lives, so I'm not in this world by myself; I'm connected to ancestry and their hopes and contribution are still living in me," said Bishop. "I'm also a host for the future."

Prisoner Demond Lewis, who is serving 109 years to life for shooting a man in the leg, gave a personal testimony about the ripple effects his conduct has on his family.

"When I shot Sherman, I never knew that one bullet would cause not only him pain, but my family and friends as well," said Lewis.

Lewis's little brother, sister and daughter all followed his footsteps into prison.

"This is the negative ripple that I created amongst my family," said Lewis. "I never had a father, never knew what a man is supposed to do. I now know real men take responsibility for their actions. The gift I've learned from RJ is giving me the tools to build and strengthen my community."

Influenced by his positive changes, Lewis' little brother got his GED and his daughter paroled and is back in school.

"We can change and have a positive effect on those we connect with," said Lewis, leaving the podium with tears in his eyes.

Jamie Sanchez, a member of the Spanish-language RJ group in San Quentin, followed with testimony about how the destruction he has caused his family is even worse for the victim.

"It doesn't matter how many programs I take, I can't change a death," said Sanchez. "I'm honoring what I did ... I am giving back for my victims because they deserve better."

Inmate Chris Gallo dis-

cussed his transformation from "Boomer," a skinhead filled with anger and pain, into Chris, who "just broke bread" with Moe (Darnell Washington).

"Moe's my friend in different color skin. Pain brought me here, but love keeps me coming back," said Gallo.

Inmate RJ coordinators led the symposium in a discussion of accountability, responsibility, vulnerability and healing.

"Taking accountability took a long time because I blamed everyone else for what I did and found justifications. When I started to accept responsibility, I began to interact with people better and love myself better," said Scott.

Krizman read inmate Danny Plunket's letter about responsibility on his behalf.

"Lawyers won't let you confess because it gives prosecutor advantage," read aloud Krizman. "Being responsible provides vindication for victims and helps them start their healing journey and helps offenders start theirs."

Mike Webb tackled vulnerability.

"To be vulnerable takes honesty, strength, humility and courage," said Webb.

He told the audience about a letter he wrote to his grandpa, who was murdered when Webb was 10 years old.

"I'll always remember how you used to throw me in the air and catch me ... because you made me feel loved. I used your murder and my father's abandonment as an excuse to commit crimes. Grandpa, will you please forgive me for doing wrong? I dedicate my life to helping other people," said Webb without a trace of the big smile he normally displays.

Washington dealt with healing by telling a story of a boy who held up a sign during an Eric Garner protest that read "Free hugs." In the middle of the demonstration, a police officer walked over and hugged the boy.

"We sit in circles; we talk about everything we've been through, and we heal," said Washington. "They don't do that out there ... everybody is separated."

"I wanted to give gratitude to all the men in blue here," said Sandy Claire, a community member. "You create this chalice of authenticity, honesty and willingness for us to come to. That's why we come back ... because of you guys."

"I was blown away by the insights that you have," said Caitlin York, a student who sits in RJ circles most Thursday nights in San Quentin.

"Some people go to church or synagogue, but when I want to find real spiritual depth, I go to San Quentin," said Bruce Berkowitz, an older community member.

Dacher Keltner, a previous RJ symposium speaker, commented, "I come back for the truth and wisdom."

## Benefits of Yoga



File photo

Yoga instructor James Fox inside the Muslim/Jewish chapel teaching his weekly yoga class

By **C. Kao**  
Journalism Guild Writer

"Research has shown that yoga offers great benefits for relieving stress and anxiety, something that is of great value for anyone living or working in a prison environment," said James Fox, founder and director of the Prison Yoga Project.

Fox earned the credential as a yoga instructor in 2000. Deciding to bring the practice to people beyond the yoga studio, he has taught a bi-weekly class at San Quentin State Prison for 12 years.

Fox's dedication has turned his class into something bigger: the Prison Yoga Project, an acclaimed and widely replicated model for bringing yoga into prisons around the country. "I've trained more than 800 yoga instructors who go teaching in institutions in different states," Fox said.

"In 2012, the National Council on Crime and Delinquency assessed results of a small study of San Quentin prison projects, among them Fox's," reported *The Yoga Journal*. It found that inmates were calmer and had better emotional control and anger management after taking his class.

"It also concluded that such course offerings were 'prom-

ising rehabilitation tools' that could reduce recidivism, a welcome validation that is helping Fox expand the reach of the Prison Yoga Project," continued the *Yoga Journal*.

Among Fox's yoga instructor trainees is a Canadian provincial investigator, Chantele Theroux, who came across a photograph of inmates doing yoga at San Quentin and was inspired. She later sought Fox's training and traveled to San Quentin to check out his program.

"Because they've learned how to breathe and calm themselves down and not just react in the face of challenge and ego, there's less violence. You can feel it," Theroux said. "Not once did I feel intimidated, scared, worried, concerned for my safety."

Theroux later spoke for prison yoga programs at a conference of the Canadian Criminal Justice Association.

Fox has even helped establish prison yoga programs in Norway, Germany and the Netherlands.

"What kind of person do you want returning to society?" Fox asks. "If you don't offer prisoners these types of programs, they're not going to improve. They are only going to get worse."

"What kind of person do you want to run into at the grocery store?" he asked rhetorically.



# Prison University Project Presents Its 12<sup>th</sup> Annual Open Mic Reading

By Juan Haines  
Managing Editor

An audience of inmates and community volunteers gathered in San Quentin's Catholic chapel the day after Christmas to hear more than two dozen inmates take the stage in Prison University Project's 12th annual open mic.

The inmates performed acts including poetry, spoken word, songs and testimonies of transformation.

Inmate Syyen Hong's spoken word performance, *True Identity*, focused on how he grew up without understanding his culture, "So, who am I?" he asked, after dealing with the trials and tribulations of life. "I am a student in a university," he said, which brought a round of applause from the audience. Hong addressed racism and hatred in California prisons. However, he said that he learned that "We are all a part of the human race." Hong empathized that he found his true identity when he found God.

Prisoner Ali Muhammed read a testimony, *Prison Is*, which described life behind bars.

"Prison is a place where you

write letters and can't find anything to say," Muhammed said. "You have been forgotten. You are only remembered in past tense." The somber tone of his testimony was met with a silence in the audience.

Inmate Danny Ho sang a gospel song, *God's Love*, in Vietnamese with a translation displayed on a teleprompter. The song broke into rap then back to the gospel with the audience clapping and cheering the performance.

Frankie Smith read *A Letter of Forgiveness* to his children. It addresses who he's become since being incarcerated. "I am willing to prove myself not only through my words, but through my actions," Smith read to the audience.

Edito DeWeaver read *Fowl Game*, a satirical poem about how feeding the birds on the prison yard is against the rules. The audience related to the poem, which addresses why he feeds the birds and how he notices the social patterns of each species, his empathy for the birds' continual struggle for survival. DeWeaver said that he notices that when there was an abundance of food, the "birds all get along well."

Jason Jones read *Pain* that



Photo by Sam Hearn

PUP's open mic organizers Kara Orion, behind the podium, and Jody Lewen inside the Protestant chapel during the graduation ceremony

defined pain through empathy. It was a self-degradation performance that confessed the pain that he caused other people.

Prisoner Richard Lathan read *Ascending to Heaven*, which was written in honor of the children of Sandy Hook.

The Native Hawaiian Spiritual Group performed a dance,

*The Sweetest Gift*, about rebirth, reconciliation, hope, peace and love.

Aaron "The Jeddii" Taylor performed, *You Ain't Ready Yet*, lampooned inmate behavior and used audience interaction.

*Six Inches off the Ground*, an original contemporary pop tune, was performed by

Robert Tyler on keyboard and sung by Richie Morris.

Michael Tyler read *Where I'm From*, which described small town-America, a place called Los Banos, Ca.

The acts touched on subjects such as: the power of language, self-discovery and self-awareness while struggling through life as an inmate; what life is like for a man who is the youngest of eight children and confessed that he could not read or write at age 42; true identity, hate, anger, sadness and life's struggles; a tribute to struggling mothers; supporting educating women in Pakistan; what it looks like seeing the landscape from inside a prison; loved ones who died since incarceration; the killing of black youth today; understanding one's purpose in life; and growing up in the suburbs.

"These guys are my tribe," said PUP Program Associate Kara Orion, referring to the students/performers.

Executive Director Jody Lewen and Program Assistant Simon Woodard attended the event along with more than a dozen teachers and volunteers of PUP.

Inmate Julian Glenn Padgett was the event's emcee.

## 13 PUP Students Gain New Appreciation for Biology

By Phoeun You  
Graphic Designer

Prison University Project's (PUP) fall 2014 semester ended with 13 students gaining important knowledge and new appreciation for biology.

The biology course was collaborated and taught by professors Xan Chacko, Troy Lionberger, Ryan McGorty, Brock Roberts, Moe Turner, Diane Wiener, and Adam Williamson — all with different backgrounds in biology.

Throughout the course, students discussed basic biology topics that included information flow, cells, evolution, emergent properties and homeostasis.

Students were asked to form hypotheses and conduct experiments to test their theories. Students then were asked to present their independent projects in front of the class at the end of the semester.

Research topics from students included exploring multiple sclerosis (MS) on a cellular level, identifying whether left or right handedness is genetic, understanding consciousness, prisoners' emotional mindset concerning love and romance, causations of drug addiction, stress and food addiction, environmental factors that cause breast cancer, dangers of human cloning, HIV, cognitive behaviors of domesticated dogs, depression on a cellular level, and inherited genetic factors of breast cancer that explain why specific ethnic groups are at greater risk than others.

PUP also provided a hands-on laboratory that included microscopy, statistical analysis, and discovery of organ function through dissection, according to the course schedule.

**"Having a goal in biology helps us get to where we're going faster. There's a purpose and an end to this"**

Student Danny Nha Ho said, "I have gained a great deal of understanding about information transmission, cells, evolution and human disease among other things," he adds. "The hands-on laboratory experience observing biotic organisms under the microscope was beyond my expectations."

The lab experiments involved DNA extraction from strawberries, along with dissecting sheep brains and cow eyes, and observing how light causes leaves to float or sink under the microscope.

Microscopy experimentation also looked at how sea urchins cells divided or didn't divide during fertilization. "I saw the stage of an egg after the fertilization process forms its own ring to prevent other sperm from entering the egg," said Ho.



Photo by Kara Orion

Back row: Isiah Fields, Charlie Spence, Rosario Banda, Brock Roberts, Barton Buenavista, Jerome Boone. Second row: Adam Williamson, Eddie Herena, Danny Nha Ho, Phil Senegal, Carlos Flores. Front row: Van Wilson, Phoeun You, "Zakee" Hutchinson and Alexei Ruiz

"I am more aware of how close living organisms (bacteria, plants, animals, and humans) rely on one another to continue the cycle of life," said Jerome Boone.

Eddie Herena was amazed at how much information is contained inside each cell. "A cell is big as the universe," said Herena. He added, "Having an understanding in biology deepened my interest in science and math."

Biology gave him clarity and purpose in life, Carlos Flores said. "Having a goal in biology helps us get to where we're going faster. There's a purpose and an end to this."



Photo by Kara Orion

Carlos Flores looking at how cells divide under the microscope while the teacher and students observe



# SQUIRES Banquet Celebrates 50 Years of Mentoring At-Risk Youth

By Charles David Henry  
Journalism Guild Writer

About 50 people gathered at a banquet marking the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the founding of SQUIRES. It's a program that brings at-risk youth in to San Quentin Prison for a close-up look at what their future holds unless they change their behavior.

"There is no agenda other than it's a heartfelt, devoted effort to help at-risk youth make good decisions in their lives and reevaluate the path they are presently on," chief sponsor Raphael "Raffie" Casale told the audience of sponsors, volunteers, mentors and community members.

Twice a month SQUIRES brings in a group of youth to tour the prison and meet with inmates. Hundreds if not thousands of young people have been part of the program in the past five decades.

SQUIRES was founded in 1964 by Death Row inmate Ross Pactor Keller as a way of reaching out to his troubled young son who had become too difficult to handle.

The Dec. 6 banquet in the Education Building also included case managers, program directors of boys and girls clubs, and Rotary Club members.

The SQUIRES program has continued since 1964. The popularity and success of the program was the central theme



Photo by Raphael Casale

Kevin Porter expressing his appreciation to the SQUIRES mentors for dedicating their time to the troubled youth

at this year's annual banquet where Raffie, co-sponsor Romania "Mana" Jaundoo and Chairmen Vaughn Miles, greeted guests to an evening of ceremony, testament and food.

Raffie gave certificates of appreciation that read: "In recognition for outstanding performance, dedication and commitment towards the positive development of At-Risk Youth. In appreciation for offering your time and energy in directing, counseling and guiding youth towards healthy goals and decisions. We acknowledge you for taking the principles and values of SQUIRES within the San Quentin Community and holding yourself to a high standard so as to be a humanitarian and mentor."

Recipients included inmates Al Borey, James Cavitt, Arnulfo Garcia, Jorge Heredia, Wayne Holt, Ke Lam, Ventrice Laster, Sandy Lockheart, Vaughn Miles, David Monroe, Vinh Nguyen, Miguel Quezada, Alexei Ruiz, Chris Schumacher, David Stephens, Michael Tyler, Shadeed Wallace-Stepter and Tommy Winfrey.

Chairman Vaughn Miles, who epitomizes and exemplifies the success and popularity of the SQUIRES' program, was introduced amid applause and a standing ovation as he accepted the 2014 Richie Earle Man of the Year Award.

In an interview with Miles, he promised to take up the challenge of expanding the SQUIRES program by designing a website and webpage to attract support on the internet.

SQUIRES' sponsors and facilitators want to reach a broader group of supporters and organizations whose mission relates to things that affect the development of today's youth.

Miles said he believes, when possible, parents and adult family members of the youth are encouraged to attend and participate in the workshops. In

addition to their own personal experiences, the youth's greatest learning assets are their family, and the knowledge they have garnered over the years. "We stress effective communication and we encourage parent participation."

This same sentiment resonated as a number of speakers were called upon to share their experiences with the kids that come to San Quentin Prison.

Larry Levy told the audience how he's been encouraging law enforcement officials to seek out parents and kids to participate in the SQUIRES program. "Continue to spread the love of SQUIRES. These are a group of amazing men at San Quentin. You exhibit the principles and a work ethic that is needed to reach children today."

Kevin Porter a youth agency counselor said, "I'm amazed at the impact this program has had on my kids."

Larenda Brooks-Williams, a case manager, shared a story about a young son who was disrespecting his father in a parking lot. She walked over to the father with a SQUIRES questionnaire and told him to check the program out.

Robert Perez, retired principal in San Jose, "I enjoy being here with you; the work you've done with these kids has really changed my perception."

When speaking to the Men of SQUIRES, Lieutenant Luna told them, "You've set high goals, and your potential is unlimited, and continue to do good work."

Joe "Robbie" Robinson, the recipients of a food certificate from Mania, told SQUIRES mentors to "keep the faith, remain loyal and trust the kids." He confessed, that after 25 years, "This is one of the best collections of SQUIRES members I've worked with. Also this will be my last year with the program. I'm retiring."

Ross Pactor Keller's vision of SQUIRES would not exist today without the dedication and commitment from Raffie and Mana. Moreover, in appreciation of their wholehearted devotion to the program, the men of SQUIRES gave them individual plaques to commemorate their loyalty to the kids.

In her closing remarks, Raffie told the guests and the mentors, "I'm blessed to be a part of SQUIRES. I believe in the SQUIRES Program and I believe in SQUIRES members."



Photo by Raphael Casale

SQUIRES staff  
Jack Jacqua

## Death Penalty Spending Increases

*Continued from Page 1*

that reported the death penalty include Somalia, "where at least 34 judicial executions took place" in 2013. Iraq ordered more than 169 inmates to death.

The global figures for Sudan and Yemen show that more than 10 prisoners were executed in each country in 2013. Even though China has one of the largest populations on earth, the country classifies its death penalty as a state secret. However, the report said it is believed that "thousands of convicts" were sent to their death.

"The report also shows that at least 1,925 people were sentenced to death in 57 countries in 2013." In that same year, 23,392 inmates were on Death Row globally. "The method of execution range from beheading, hanging, lethal injection to shooting."

Amnesty International reported 98 countries have abolished capital punishment for all crimes. Most of these are in Western Europe and the Americas. Seven countries, including Brazil, Chile and Kazakhstan, have abolished it for "ordinary crimes." In "these countries, death penalty can

only be given for exceptional crimes such as crime committed under military law or under exceptional circumstances."

The report identified 35 countries as abolitionist in practice. However, they "retain the death penalty for ordinary crimes, but there have been no executions in the past 10 years."

Worldwide studies show in most cases, that persons sentenced to death are generally from an economically and socially backward section of society, Amnesty International wrote.

Opponents say, "It is possible for innocent people to get executed because of unfair and discriminatory application of the death penalty," the report adds. In many cases, poor defendants don't have resources to hire good attorneys to represent them, the report said.

"Many studies have suggested that there is no evidence to show that capital punishment has any effect on murder rates," the report noted. There are critics who believe an execution is a denial of human rights and it "sends the wrong message, that killing is acceptable under certain circumstances."

## Pastor Finds New Spiritual Calling

By Girard Rooks  
Contributing Writer

Why me? Why this? Who hasn't asked this at times?

Two men serving time in San Quentin asked me to talk about how and why I send sermons to California prisoners. I can answer in two ways. One, my experience of how it happened, and the other is through God's view, as I read it in the Bible.

My experience comes from the fact that I have a brother who used to teach a Bible class in a county jail in California. He connected with some men who went on to state prison. For them he made copies of sermons preached by the minister at his church. Over time he was mailing these to 60 or 70 men, and family members of some.

For years I've preached about 10 times a year at Mel Trotter Mission in Grand Rapids, Mich. However, once I retired I had time to type my sermons. My brother read one, and thought



Photo provided by Girard Rooks

J.F. Girard Rooks

they'd make a good mailer, so I began sending them to him.

A few years ago something changed and he stopped mailing sermons. When I learned of this, I asked for his mailing list and I started mailing my messages myself. Then, I contacted some prison chaplains and a few of them agreed to accept, copy and make my messages available to men in their

facilities. Over time, we have reached more and more men (and now women too) in prison, and members of their families. For several years I have also mailed Spanish translations of the messages.

Now, God's view on this:

- Psalm 139, verse 16: All the days ordained for me were written in your book before one of them came to be.

- Ephesians 2: 10: We are God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.

Why me? Why this? Because God planned it and then worked things in my life to make it happen.

*If you're on Death Row, in jail or prison, or have a family member who would like to receive these mailings, write me at: J.F. Girard Rooks, c/o Hanley Christian Reformed Church, O-372 Jackson St., Grandville, MI 49418.*



# Remembering Dr. King, Ferguson and Moving Forward

## An ‘OG’s’ Perspective

Thanks to a positive decision in Sacramento, this is my final article while incarcerated at San Quentin State Prison. Subsequent articles will be from me on parole. Because of the length of this article and the limited space available, the second part will appear in the February edition (Black History Month). My son, Larry Jr., will contribute an article for the March column.

*“[Racism] is something that is deeply rooted in our society; it’s deeply rooted in our history.”*

–Barack Obama

In light of the righteous outrage surrounding successive grand jury decisions not to indict police officers Darren Wilson and Daniel Pantaleo for the killings of two unarmed black men, Michael Brown and Eric Garner, I would be remiss in my responsibilities if I didn’t offer an OG’s perspective on these latest miscarriages of justice.

In the aftermath of Ferguson, let us turn our respectful gaze on the life and struggle of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. I was coming of age at the height of Dr. King’s influence, during the time when his dynamic speeches and powerful leadership were constantly in the news, a time when he met with presidents and led marches of thousands. I was 15 years old when he made his electrifying “I Have a Dream” speech at the 1963 historic March on Washington for Jobs and Freedom. In this thrilling speech, what is most quoted and remembered is King’s impassioned articulation of a vision of a “post-racial” world of harmony and economic justice, where a man is judged “not by the color of his skin, but by the content of his character.”

King’s “Dream” gives form to hope in a description of human society in which equality and human dignity prevail. His powerful words come from a deep conviction, the same passionate conviction that says all lives matter, and that a free, egalitarian and just society is possible. The hope of that vision reverberates today, and continues to have the capacity to inspire and empower.

***“We must not allow our creative protest to degenerate into physical violence. Again and again, we must rise to the majestic heights of meeting physical force with soul force”***

However, there are a whole lot of words King speaks before he gets to that utopian dream. He lays out for America the challenges and urgency of the issues at hand, and just why such a dream is so desperately needed. King also taught that there can be no racial reconciliation in this country without the requirements of justice or struggle.

Listen to the prescient words King uttered to the marchers nearly 52 years ago:

“We have also come to this hallowed spot to remind America of the fierce urgency of Now. This is no time to engage in the luxury of cooling off or to take the tranquilizing

drug of gradualism. Now is the time to make real the promises of democracy. Now is the time to rise from the dark and desolate valley of segregation to the sunlit path of racial justice. Now is the time to lift our nation from the quicksand of racial injustice to the solid rock of brotherhood. Now is the time to make justice a reality for all of God’s children.

“It would be fatal for the nation to overlook the urgency of the moment. This sweltering summer of (Black’s) legitimate discontent will not pass until there is an invigorating autumn of freedom and equality. Nineteen sixty-three is not an end, but a beginning. And those who hope that (Blacks) needed to blow off steam and will now be content will have a rude awakening if the nation returns to business as usual. And there will be neither rest nor tranquility in America until the (African American) is granted his citizenship rights. The whirlwinds of revolt will continue to shake the foundations of our nation until the bright day of justice emerges.

“But there is something that I must say to my people, who stand on the warm threshold which leads into the palace of justice: In the process of gaining our rightful place, we must not be guilty of wrongful deeds. Let us not seek to satisfy our thirst for freedom by drinking from the cup of bitterness and hatred. We must forever conduct our struggle on the high plane of dignity and discipline. We must not allow our creative protest to degenerate into physical violence. Again and again, we must rise to the majestic heights of meeting physical force with soul force.

“The marvelous new militancy which has engulfed the (Black) community must

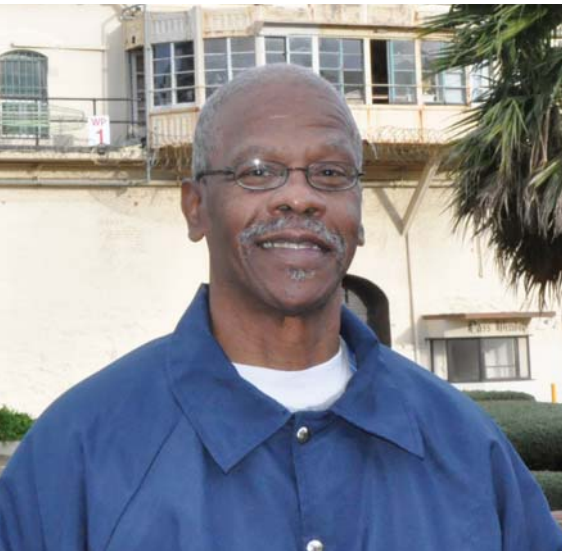


Photo by Sam Hearnes

Watani Stiner standing in front of the Skull Gate

not lead us to a distrust of all white people, for many of our white brothers, as evidenced by their presence here today, have come to realize that their destiny is tied up with our destiny. And they have come to realize that their freedom is inextricably bound to our freedom.

“We cannot walk alone. “And as we walk, we must make the pledge that we shall always march ahead.

“We cannot turn back. “There are those who are asking the devotees of civil rights, ‘When will you be satisfied?’ We can never be satisfied as long as the (African American) is the victim of the unspeakable horrors of police brutality...”

Could this speech be any more pertinent to the issues facing us today, as a movement grows against that self-same racism and police brutality King spoke of a half-century ago? King is remembered for his nonviolence (sometimes scornfully by those who take the view that violence is necessary for social change) and for his Dream, but is he re-

membered enough for his impassioned plea that *“This is no time to engage in the luxury of cooling off or to take the tranquilizing drug of gradualism.”* That *“there will be neither rest nor tranquility in America until the (African American) is granted his citizenship rights.”* And the very first violation of those rights Martin Luther King, Jr. names in his famous speech: police brutality.

I’m sure that many of you reading this will agree with King that we must march ahead, that we must not rest until we have reached the goal. But that raises the question: what does marching ahead entail? What work can we put ourselves to that will be most effective in moving forward?

In another, lesser-known speech given in Michigan five years after his Dream speech and just a month before he was murdered, King discussed this. In next month’s (Black History Month) column, we’ll remember what Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. had to say about moving forward.

END OF PART #1

## 1936 San Quentin ‘Murder of Wife’ Trial Revisited

By Steve Lech  
Contributing Columnist

On Aug. 13, 1936, sheriff’s deputies were called to the home of fellow officer John McNeill in Temecula. McNeill, a Temecula blacksmith and deputy constable, reported the beating of his wife, Melvey. A few minutes beforehand, his son, John Jr., had similarly called, reporting that he had found his mother severely beaten and unconscious. When help arrived, Melvey McNeill was rushed to the county hospital where she died that night.

During questioning, John McNeill Sr. had indicated that he had seen a “prowler” running from the house just before his call. However, that story began to unravel almost as quickly as other facts came in. John Jr. had told investiga-

tors that he had seen his parents quarreling often, mostly about money and ill treatment of some of the animals they kept.

The most damning evidence, though, came from Melvey McNeill herself. Despite being severely wounded, she managed to tell officials on three different occasions that her beating had been at the hands of her husband. She had indicated that the weapon had been a rubber-covered roller from a washing machine. Deputies quickly discovered the weapon, covered with blood and hidden in a box, and began grilling John Sr. further. His contention that a “prowler”

had been in the area was quickly dismissed by neighbors, and soon the only “prowler” police were investigating was John Sr.

John McNeill was a blacksmith by trade, but already had a criminal record. He served two years in San Quentin for forgery. In addition, he was known for having a caustic temper and being argumentative with his wife. He later stated that he had hit her a few times in self-defense because Melvey had threatened him with a gun, which she was holding in her left hand. Forensics investigations quickly ruled that out as her left hand was badly deformed, and op-

erating a pistol with that hand was out of the question.

After days of investigation, on Aug. 24, the grand jury recommended that John McNeill be held without bail for the slaying of his wife. McNeill immediately obtained a lawyer and began to “work the press,” as people would say today. A few articles appeared in the Riverside newspaper, *The Press*, during August, September and October indicating that he would plead justifiable homicide and/or insanity in the killing of his wife.

Jury selection began on Oct. 26, 1936, with District Attorney Earl Redwine facing off against John Neblett and

Russell Waite. In what *The Press* described as a “meticulous selection of jurors,” each team dismissed many people before coming to an agreement on a nine-woman, three-man jury. At 11:15 p.m. on the night of Oct. 30, the jury released their verdict that John McNeill should be sent to the San Quentin gallows for the murder of his wife.

The verdict was automatically appealed to the state Supreme Court, which denied the appeal on April 27, 1937. With that, Riverside County Judge Oakley Morton sentenced McNeill to be hanged on July 9.

On July 9, McNeill “mounted the gallows nervously, but did not falter” according to *The Press*. He was pronounced dead at 10:16 a.m. Less than five years later, California would do away with hangings in capital cases in favor of the gas chamber.

## BACK IN THE DAY

# Inmate Gains a Following and Fame For Creating Financial Literacy Class

**By Rahsaan Thomas**  
**Staff Writer**

Curtis “Wall Street” Carroll is teaching fellow inmates financial literacy as a practical and better alternative to crime, and the media has taken notice. “Sixty percent of people in prison are in for money-related crimes, and this is the only money management finance program I know of,” said Carroll. “It’s really bigger than just helping men make money. When someone asks me to help him get out of criminal activity, I am helping him build a new foundation, and that means the world to me.”

The Dec. 4 class was covered by Wilson Walker for CBS (KPIX-TV) in San Francisco, Emily Green for NPR, and Joe Orlando of the Office of Public and Employee Communications for California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation. They came to see what “The Oracle of San Quentin” (as Carroll is now called for his

winning stock-picking ability) is teaching. “I wanted to see what people are learning, the whole learning process,” said Orlando.

Carroll said he was motivated to learn how to read in order to understand the place where “White people keep their money.” He’s serving life for his part of committing a murder at age 17.

He learned all about the stock market from an inmate and reading, once he learned how to read. He then developed a system for picking stocks. Studying the stock market opened a new way of looking at money and how proper management and investing can stop crime, he said.

“If not for financial education, I’d be on that yard selling tobacco, weed, and phones,” said Carroll. “Financial education has been a lifesaver. Now I can earn money legally and manage it properly.”

Troy Williams, who recently paroled, came up with combin-



NPR's Emily Green taping Curtis Carroll during a class session about reentry and money management

ing emotional intelligence and finance. The two met at San Quentin, co-founded Freeman Capital, and started teaching other prisoners.

The classes have three modules. The first is Reentry, and it’s about teaching inmates what they need to know to re-

enter society. This includes how to make a resume and handle job interviews.

The second module teaches money management.

“Why does a guy working in PIA earning \$100 a month, \$1,200 a year and \$6,000 in five years parole broke? He doesn’t have a financial education or understand his emotional connection to money,” said Carroll. He inspires inmates to invest in stocks and save money instead of wasting it on junk, so they can parole with a head start.

Module three shows how to prepare for retirement.

Several community volun-

teers helped design the curriculum and some help teach the classes. Kevin Lundquist and Adam Sanders do mock interviews and teach the inmates how to prepare resumes.

“I found the hardest thing for parolees is getting jobs when they get out. So I thought a program like this would help,” said Sanders. “You can’t let guys out of prison who haven’t been in the workforce for 20 years and expect them to make it without any help. They will be much happier and productive citizens with options.”

Valentina Bravo helps teach money management skills. “The world revolves around money. If inmates don’t have money management skills, they will go back to their old ways,” she says. “So the money you do have, know how to make it last.”

For sponsor Tom De Martini, “My involvement is giving back to the community and helping to effect change in our penal systems and how we need to start looking at restorative justice, not just punitive. These types of programs should be at all prisons.”

Carroll added, “Some think stocks are risky... that’s not true. I couldn’t read, so if I can do it, we all can. Financial education can help those who feel they have no hope.”

## Exonerated After Nearly 20 Years

*Police records showed that Taylor was in custody at the time of the crime*

**By James R. Abernathy Jr.**  
**Journalism Guild Writer**

Daniel Taylor received a life sentence in 1995 after being charged with murder, robbery and home invasion.

The problem? Police records showed that Taylor was in custody at the time of the crime. In 2013, nearly 20 years after his arrest and conviction, he was exonerated when a series of reports by the *Chicago Tribune* revealed missteps and cover-ups by police, which led to the wrongful conviction. This is one of 87 cases in 2013 in which an innocent individual was cleared of false charges in the United States.

Exonerations across the country are increasing, according to a report released by the National Registry of Exonerations. The group, a collabo-

ration between the University of Michigan and Northwestern University, found that wrongful convictions often relied on false confessions and erroneous eyewitness testimony. Exonerations often use DNA testing that was unavailable at the time of the original conviction.

This rise in recorded exonerations is in part due to a growing focus on the validity of criminal convictions, which at times land innocent people behind bars. Between 1989 and 2014, there have been 1,281 individual exonerations in the nation, according to the report.

Exonerations nationwide have ranged between 53 and 85 in each of the past 13 years. That is more than double those in 1989, which has 20 cases of exoneration on record.

The number of cases in which innocent individuals pleaded

guilty is on the rise as well. The Registry report said this trend indicates a greater understanding between authorities and defendants who accepted plea bargains rather than risk greater punishment at trial.

Homicide and sexual assault make up the most wrongful convictions. Between 1989 and 2013, 597 homicide cases and 398 sexual assault cases were overturned.

Black defendants make up the largest percentage of exonerees at 47 percent of all cases. This is particularly glaring for prisoners jailed for rape. Black defendants make up a quarter of prisoners convicted for rape, but over half of those exonerated.

Exonerations on record will continue to rise as the National Registry of Exonerations examines and tracks more cases, the report said.

## Citizens Shift Political View After Run-ins with Criminal Justice System

**By Isaiah Thompson-Bonilla**  
**Journalism Guild Writer**

An increasing number of citizens are coming in contact with the criminal justice system, a fact that is shaping how citizens participate in the political process and their political voice.

The *American Political Science Review* published a study, “Political Consequences of the Carceral State,” by Vesla M. Weaver and Amy E. Lerman, of Virginia and Princeton universities respectively, which expressed strong belief that America has become a carceral state, which is instrumental in influencing how citizens view

their government.

As a carceral state, many citizens find that their only connection to government is through contact with the courts, police and prison. A 1977 study found that most offenders who were formerly incarcerated have only dealt with the political system through criminal justice venues. These venues include, but are not limited to, halfway houses, probation and parole offices and some employment opportunities. Penal institutions provide healthcare and education.

Jennifer Lawless and Richard Fox completed a study in the South Bronx in which one of

their respondents said, “In cities like this ... most people have their only real contact with government in hostile confrontations with the police.”

Although the study covered many aspects concerning the effects of the carceral state, the main focus of the study was the effect it had on the people.

A substantial portion of the population is adversely affected by what they view as a government that has misrepresented them. As these perceptions become real in the minds of the people, the study showed that criminal behavior became more prevalent.

Sociologist and author Tom

Tyler has written exclusively on the subject of procedural justice. Tyler’s theory on the procedural justice model is: In order for citizens to believe in the government and the judicial process, it is essential that their voices be heard, that they have trust in government authorities, that they are treated with dignity and respect and that the forums in which their opposing issues are heard show impartiality.

This depiction of civic en-

gagement clearly shows that the more contact with the criminal justice system, the more likely political engagement will be diminished. The cause and effect of a carceral state threatens the moral fiber of the United States, the report contends.

The United States was founded on successful cohabitation and shared responsibility. The carceral state is a polarizing element in which cohesive living becomes less likely to develop, said the report.

### VGSQ COLUMN

**By Lee Jasper**  
**Journalism Guild Writer**

Chairman of the Holiday Toy Program, Gary Cooper, headed up a team of veterans who began decorating the San Quentin visiting area on Dec. 5.

They expected to be finished on Dec. 12, just in time for the first day of gift giving.

The program was manned by these veteran members of the VGSQ: Stan Baer, Lawson Beavers, Larry Faison, James Foster, Dennis Lacrosse, Tedrick Sims and Cooper.

Also assisting in the gifting during weekends which began Dec. 13 and ended on Christmas day were Terry and Gloria Godchaux from Operation MOMS and Jlynn Manley, the webmaster for the VGSQ.

All children of San Quentin inmates who are under the age of 14 are eligible to receive two gifts per visit.

Steve Emrick and Heather Entzel picked up the toys and brought them into San Quentin.

The United States Marine Corps provided the toys for the Toys for Tots program, VGSQ has been doing the holiday toy program for 27 years.



By Angelo Falcone  
Journalism Guild Writer

This year the month of January is marked with many celebrations, observances and symbols.

New Year's Day and the Solemnity of Mary were both on Jan. 1. The Epiphany of the Lord was observed on Jan. 6, and Martin Luther King Day is Jan. 19.

According to the World Almanac, January celebrates Jump Out of Bed Month, National Mentoring Month and National Poverty in America Awareness Month.

Finally, there are two astrological signs in January: Capricorn, the goat (Dec. 22 to Jan. 19) and Aquarius, the Water Bearer (Jan. 20 to Feb. 18).

During the first month of the year, many people make resolutions to achieve person-

# Reflecting on Past Mistakes

## Asked On The Line

al goals related to their health, their career or their finances. They may also commit to losing a bad habit, to cease procrastinating, to quit wasting time or to stop dwelling on their mistakes and starting over, a "do-over."

If an opportunity to go back in time were possible, how would people change history?

If an older version of ourselves appeared before us to warn us or give us advice, would we listen?

"Asked on the Line" asked mainliners, "If you could go

back in time, any time before your arrest, for only 30 seconds, to speak to your younger self, what would you say?"

Johnny Gomez said that he would tell his younger self, "Never take the easy way out. Hard work will take you farther in life."

Ralph Cendejas said that he would say to himself, "Control your anger. Don't be so angry. Don't lose your temper. Be patient."

Zakee Hutchinson would provide a directive to his younger self, "Stay in the mili-

tary, and don't get out!"

Richard Morris said that he would tell himself, "Wake up and understand that everything you say or do impacts everyone else. Don't be rash, and consider things before you act."

Joey Mason said that he would urge his younger self to, "Go to therapy and follow your heart. Chances are, if you follow your heart you won't end up in prison."

Shawn Perry said he would tell a young Shawn, "Don't do drugs! Listen to your parents!"

Tim Thompson said that he would advise his younger self to "stay focused. Don't believe the hype that 'easier is better.'"

Orlando Harris said that he would tell his younger self, "You have choices. The choic-

es you make are going to affect your future."

Billy Terry said he would simply say to himself, "Listen to your boss. I would still have my job and not be in prison."

Alexei Ruiz said that he would tell a young Alexei, "You are not alone. Your family loves you. You have people who love and care about you. Think about the consequences of what you're doing."

Vincente Gomez said that he would tell himself, "Mirate a ti mismo y no sigas cometiendo mas errores." [Look at yourself and stop making so many mistakes.]

Jesus Flores would say, "Hay muchas mujeres que estan interesadas en ti. No pierdas el tiempo con las que no te quieren." [There are many women who are interested in you. Don't waste time with those who don't like you.]

# What I Wish I Knew When I Was 20

By Juan Haines  
Managing Editor

As a 57-year-old convict, *What I Wish I Knew When I Was 20*, by Tina Seelig (2009) immediately caught my attention. I believe I would have done exactly what Seelig suggests if I knew when I was a youngster what the mature me knows — look at the world as "rich and full of possibility."

Seelig challenges readers to take healthy chances in their lives: "The most interesting things happen when you get off the predictable path," and to get a fuller understanding of failure: "Failures offer learning opportunities and increase the chance that you won't make the same mistake again. Failures are also a sign that you have taken on challenges that expand your skills. In fact, many successful people believe that if you aren't failing sometimes, then you aren't taking enough risks."

## BOOK REVIEW

"Essentially, the goal of this book," Seelig writes, "is to provide a new lens through which to view the obstacles you encounter every day while charting your course into the future. It is designed to give you permission to question conventional wisdom and to revisit the rules around you."

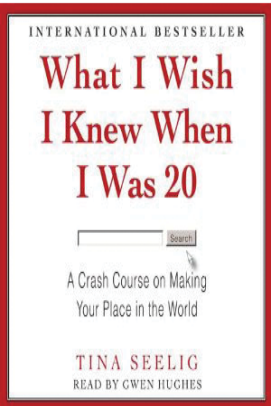
Seelig has a trustworthy voice in *What I Wish I Knew When I Was 20*. She asks readers questions to get them thinking about sound choices. She begins Chapter 1 by asking, "What would you do to earn money if all you had was five dollars and two hours?"

The book tackles scenarios that people might consider as problems. She says to view them as opportunities, while

recognizing societal limitations.

"These social rules and norms are designed to make the world around us more organized and predictable, and to prevent us from hurting one another," Seelig writes. However, "Don't be afraid to get out of your comfort zone, to have a healthy disregard for the impossible, and to turn well-worn ideas on their heads."

Seelig tells her readers, "Don't be in a rush to get to your final destination — the side trips and unexpected detours quite often lead to the most interesting people, places, and opportunities. And, finally, be wary of all career advice, including mine, as you figure out what's right for you."



Moreover she writes, "You can maximize your chances by being well prepared physically, intellectually, and emotionally. We dramatically increase the chances that we will be lucky by exposing ourselves to as many diverse experiences as possible, boldly combining these experiences in unusual ways, and fearlessly

striving to get to the stage on which we want to play out our life."

According to Seelig, if you want to be that person leading the charge, then you have to take on that role; "It takes hard work, energy, and drive — but these are the assets that set leaders apart from those who wait for others to anoint them."

"Protect and enhance your reputation — it's your most valuable asset and should be guarded well. Learn how to apologize with a simple 'I'm sorry.' Keep in mind that everything is negotiable and learn to navigate toward an outcome in which all parties win."

"Tina Seelig is one of the most creative and inspiring teachers at Stanford. Her book ought to be required reading," said Robert Sutton, Stanford University professor and New York Times bestselling author. I wholeheartedly agree.

# Cesar Chavez: Fighting for Equality Among Farm Workers

By San Quentin Reviews

Director Diego Luna's *Cesar Chavez* underscores the point that no matter how powerless we feel, we always have the power to decide who we are.

*Cesar Chavez* portrays the hardships of the immigrant worker and Chavez's struggle to help farm workers secure higher wages and more humane working conditions. When Chavez (Michael Pena) peacefully organizes Delano's farm workers, their resolve is tested as they are arrested, run down with cars and even shot.

Pena's performance captures the anguish of a Mexican-American stretched between his pride as a husband and father who chooses not to protect his often-threatened family in the traditional macho way and his commitment to meet violent intimidation with non-violence. Chavez's non-violent approach, however, not only creates a rift between him and his followers,

## MOVIE REVIEW

it strains the loyalty of his wife (America Ferrera) and alienates his oldest son (Eli Vargas).

Chavez's non-violent methods also cause a rift among the members of S.Q. Reviews when we meet in the back lot behind San Quentin Prison's education department. Juan Meza characterizes the movie's message as American propaganda designed to promote a world that can't challenge U.S. power.

"America is always promoting heroes that suit them," Meza says. "If the hero isn't white, he's always non-violent. George Washington and Daniel Boone shot their enemies in the face, but America's idea of a heroic Mexican is a guy who looks dignified while you pee on his shoes."

Eyebrows rise among the reviewers. Each is a lifer who wants to parole one day, and



to go on record as a proponent of violence is a bad pre-board plan.

"I thought the non-violence message was powerful," says Rahsaan Thomas. "It shows us how we can beat injustice in America."

Meza disagrees. "We can beat American corruption by lying down and letting them

poop on us," he says sarcastically. "No — I'm always of the argument that you meet guns with guns. When Sitting Bull defeated the U.S. at Little Big Horn, he didn't want to fight. But he knew he had to go to war to have peace."

"Sitting Bull won a battle," Emile DeWeaver says. "But can you name one person who won a war on U.S. soil through force of arms?"

Meza can't think of anyone

We can understand Meza's indignation. It does feel unjust that there seem to be two standards of heroism when we read American history.

"I know injustice," DeWeaver says. "It's immediately satisfying to respond with violence, but look where it's gotten me long-term. And, I could mount an argument about why I was right. Let's say I was justified. I'd be 100 percent right and still

100 percent serving a life sentence. How does that move me closer to a solution?"

Thomas agrees. "There's enough good in the system to fix the system if we work together. But, if you fight fire with fire, then you both look like dragons. Then people start choosing sides, and it doesn't matter who's right. If you kill my dad, I don't care if he's wrong. But if Dad is alive, I can vote against him and help you."

It's easy to side against Meza, knowing his position is unpopular in the American mainstream, but to judge him is to miss the movie's point. We all have a choice. It's less about whether we fight oppression with non-violence and more about taking responsibility for the men we want to be and the world we want to create.

On a scale of one to five dinner cookies, *Cesar Chavez* rates two and a half cookies.

**Contributors:**  
Emile DeWeaver, Rahsaan Thomas, Juan Meza

**1. Alabama** — A nonprofit law firm asked the U.S. Department of Justice to investigate the prison system in October after a six-month investigation that revealed corruption, criminal misconduct and abusive behavior among correctional officers at a female institution. The report found that violence, sexual abuse and leadership problems were worse than previously believed.

**2. Oakland** — Ronald Ross, who was sentenced to 32 years to life for shooting Renardo Williams in 2006, was freed in 2013 and declared innocent after Williams confessed to have falsely identified Ross under pressure from an officer. Ross sued the officer and the city for damages. The suit alleges the city failed to teach officers how to conduct a photo lineup without coercing the witness and respond to evidence pointing to a suspect's innocence.

**3. Los Angeles** — A judge voided Susan Mellen's murder conviction in October, deeming she received "subpar representation" from her attorney, who did not conduct a thorough investigation of the witness's credibility. The judge said the trial had hinged on the claim of a single witness, who was revealed a habitual liar. Jurors never learned that the witness's sister, a Torrance police officer, believed the witness (her sister) was a pathological liar, and that years earlier police had deemed the witness an "unreliable informant."

**4. Pittsburgh** — In October, a federal jury awarded \$100,000 in compensatory damages to Joseph Consonery, a former west-



ern Pennsylvania jail inmate who claimed officials neglected his dental treatment after he broke a tooth. Consonery sued Washington County and jail employees in 2009, saying they repeatedly ignored his treatment requests during his four-month stay in jail. When his tooth became infected, he wasn't allowed access to an oral surgeon — which his attorney said would have cost about \$1,000 — until he was sent to state prison in June. Jurors declined to award punitive damages.

**5. Springfield, Mo.** — Muslim inmate Richard Ray McLendon

Jr. is suing the Greene County jail and its program coordinator of religious matters, alleging jailers violated his civil rights by denying him a Quran and a prayer rug and refusing to let him attend Friday prayers, the Springfield News-Leader reported in September.

**6. Los Angeles** — The Justice Department announced in September a \$435,000 "Smart Prosecution" grant for a pilot program in Los Angeles aimed at keeping first-time offenders arrested for "quality-of-life" crimes out of jail by giving them a chance to make amends. The grant will

pay the salaries of two full-time staffers for two years. Chicago, Houston and San Francisco also received similar grants.

**7. Columbus, Ohio** — About 100 Ohio prison workers picketed outside Department of Rehabilitation and Correction headquarters in October, claiming that staff shortages and other issues have made prisons more dangerous. The prison workers said bad food from a private vendor, overcrowding and security breaches contributed to unsafe conditions inside 27 state prisons.

**8. New Orleans** — Four months

after Nathan Brown, who was imprisoned almost 17 years for an attempted rape he didn't commit, was released from prison, the state was ordered to pay him \$330,000; the maximum from its wrongful conviction compensation fund. DNA tests proved that he was not the man who the victim said attacked her outside her apartment in 1997.

**9. San Francisco** — California Attorney General Kamala Harris filed a brief Dec. 1 urging the U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals to overturn a lower court ruling that nullified the state's death penalty law. The lower court ruled executions were uncertain and involved lengthy delays.

**10. Sacramento** — Gov. Jerry Brown signed a bill that prohibits California prisons from forcing women to be sterilized for birth control.

**11. Ventura** — Michael Hanline was freed Nov. 24 after more than 30 years in prison for a crime that DNA tests showed he did not commit, Reuters reported. The California Innocence Project worked for 15 years to win the case for Hanline, 69.

**12. Cleveland** — Ricky Jackson, 57, was freed Nov. 21 after 39 years in prison for a crime he did not commit, Reuters reported. A second man convicted in the case, Wiley Bridgeman, 60, was also freed. A man who testified in the trial recanted his testimony and told authorities he never witnessed the crime.

**13. Bonne Terre, Mo.** — Leon Vincent Taylor was executed Nov. 19 for fatally shooting an Independence gas station attendant in 1994. It was the ninth execution in Missouri last year.

# Maxing Out on Long Sentences

By Tommy Bryant  
Journalism Guild Writer

One out of five offenders serves "...the full duration of their sentences and transition out of prison with no legal conditions, monitoring or reentry assistance," states a report from the Pew Charitable Trusts.

A rise in crime in the 1990s made "protecting public safety" a big issue. The Violent Crime Control and Law Enforcement

Act of 1994 authorized billions of dollars in federal grants for prison expansion capacities.

Prisoners had to serve a minimum "85 percent of their original court sentence before becoming eligible for release," according to the Pew report. The 1994 law made the 85 percent sentences viable by constructing room for extended incarcerations.

If an inmate has substantial disciplinary time added

on while incarcerated, the 85 percent minimum can become a 100 percent maximum sentence.

In some cases, inmates go straight from solitary confinement to the streets, creating another dilemma, said the report. Most of these inmates are already stressed and mentally challenged after serving time in restricted lockdowns and being confined to a cell 23 hours a day with limited human con-

tact. Abruptly going from that environment to a crowded bus station or shopping mall increases their stress. This group of inmates has high rates of recidivism, compared to the general population.

California's AB109 Public Safety Realignment Act of 2011 keeps lower-level offenders in county jurisdiction jails. Judges can now use a split sentence, which combines a jail term with mandatory supervision. All this helps to lower recidivism and protects community safety.

The mandatory supervision

policy, when properly implemented, can also save substantial taxpayer dollars. This is especially true for post-release inmates who are considered violent, serious or repeat offenders.

From a victim's point of view, mandatory supervision is good for communities. "Using increasingly sophisticated tools, officials can estimate the probability of recidivism and identify criminal risk factors that can be addressed to reduce the likelihood of reoffending," according to the Pew report.

# Governor Brown Increases Spending to Support Realignment

Continued from Page 1

itation programs, among other issues.

"I can report ... that Realignment is working," Brown said to a gathering of the state's major law enforcement organizations last April.

After meeting with Monterey County Sheriff Scott Miller in January, Brown said he would look through the Capital "cookie jar" to see if he could find more money for counties. "I'm still waiting to see what he found in his cookie jars. I haven't heard anything back yet," said Miller.

The governor visited 10 counties between January and April last year, touring jails and meeting with inmates as well as with

sheriffs, district attorneys, judges, county supervisors, police chiefs and probation officers to discuss the Realignment law, reported *The Associated Press* in an April 20 story.

Criticism of the law from crime victim advocates, Republican lawmakers and some county officials is that "it is creating the same kind of overcrowded conditions in county jails that gave rise to the federal court intervention in the state prison system," the AP reported.

"Overcrowding is forcing many counties to release convicts after serving only a fraction of their sentences ... and the harder-core inmates that counties are now housing have led to an increase in violence in the state's largest jail systems," the article continued.

The state has provided nearly \$2 billion for jail construction since 2007. Riverside County is using \$100 million of the state money to build housing for about 1,300 jail inmates. Sheriff Stan Sniff and Board of Supervisors Chairman Jeff Stone told the AP much more money is needed.

Stone noted he had suggested the governor streamline environmental reviews for new jails. The governor "said he thought it was a good idea ... he would look into it. I haven't heard a thing," Stone said.

Kern County Sheriff Donny Youngblood worried that county jails built to hold criminals for no more than a year are now housing them for a decade or more. Brown has proposed modifying the law so that in-

mates sentenced to more than 10 years would serve their time in state prisons, reported the AP.

"Three years, from my standpoint, might be reasonable," Youngblood said, convinced the sentence should be shorter for jail time.

Brown cautioned in the law enforcement gathering in April that the state could not overspend. He said he realized local officials are under "a lot of stress," reported AP.

Diane Cummins, the governor's special adviser on Realignment, said "...the state is unlikely to increase the operating funds it provides counties, but it might help with county-provided mental health and drug treatment programs."

One key to making Brown's Realignment law work is hav-

ing enough classroom space and money to provide drug and alcohol treatment and other programs that can keep criminals from committing new crimes, said Stanislaus County Sheriff Adam Christianson and County Supervisor Vito Chiesa, the story said.

Stanislaus County benefited from an \$80 million state grant to build a new housing unit holding 456 inmates and will include classrooms and areas where criminals on probation can receive services, AP reported.

"The take-home message (to the governor) is, if you want to see success in Realignment, then the counties and local governments need help with the resources to do that," said Christianson.



Arts & Entertainment

Snippets

Alice Walker published her first novel, *The Third Life of Grange Copeland*, in 1970.

Mercury can cause liver, kidney and skin damage if consumed.

Blue and green eggs can be found underneath the Ameraucana and Araucana chicken.

Insects have four wings. Flies are the only insects that have two wings.

Talking on the phone can get you struck by lightning. It is the leading cause of lightning injuries inside of a home.

In Cuba you would be hard pressed to find a Monopoly board game. Fidel Castro ordered all Monopoly sets destroyed once he took reign in Cuba.

Only one Japanese soldier, Kazuo Sakamaki, was actually arrested during the Pearl Harbor attack. His submarine was grounded and he swam ashore.

No one really knows the truth about Rameses the Great offspring. The rumor was that he fathered over 100 children before he died.

Sudoku Corner


9		2		4		7		5
				1				
6					7	4	3	
5	9	1			6	3		
4								1
		3	1			6	9	4
	5	9	2					6
				6				
7		6		5		9		3

3	6	1			8			
7								
2	8				9		1	
6			9		7			3
1	5		6		4		9	7
9			5		1			4
	9		4				6	1
								2
			8			5	7	9

Last Issue's Sudoku Solution

1	5	4	6	8	2	3	9	7
8	2	3	9	4	7	5	6	1
7	9	6	3	5	1	4	2	8
5	7	2	8	6	3	1	4	9
3	1	8	2	9	4	7	5	6
4	6	9	1	7	5	2	8	3
6	3	1	5	2	9	8	7	4
9	4	5	7	3	8	6	1	2
2	8	7	4	1	6	9	3	5

1	5	3	7	2	8	6	4	9
8	2	4	6	3	9	5	1	7
7	6	9	5	4	1	8	3	2
2	9	6	4	1	5	3	7	8
4	8	5	2	7	3	1	9	6
3	1	7	8	9	6	4	2	5
9	7	8	3	5	4	2	6	1
6	4	2	1	8	7	9	5	3
5	3	1	9	6	2	7	8	4



Samantha SantaMaria in Cholula, Puebla (Mexico) enjoying the S.Q. News

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# Golden Bears Capture Title With 13 Seconds Left, 21-18

**By Marcus Henderson**  
**Journalism Guild Writer**

The San Quentin Golden Bears scored a touchdown with 13 seconds remaining, defeating All-Madden, 21-18, to capture the Intramural Flag Football League championship.

“It was fun; we won,” said Golden Bears quarterback Royce Rose.

With time running out, the Golden Bears had the football, but were losing, 18-14. A blitzing

**SPORTS**

All-Madden defense pressured Rose to throw a high wobbly pass toward the end zone.

All-Madden cornerback Satinder “7” Singh misjudge the pass and missed the interception, leaving Cleo Cloman wide open. Cloman made the touchdown catch, which gave the Golden Bears the victory.

“I just waited on my number to

be called; I did not play well, but it’s a team sport,” said Cloman.

The Golden Bears and All-Madden traded leads all game. With 38 seconds left in the game, All-Madden backup quarterback John Windham found wide receiver Kevin Carr on a slash route for a five-yard walkin touchdown, giving them the 18-14 lead.

This touchdown came after a miraculous catch by All-Madden wide receiver Kent Craig for 40 yards, setting up red-zone posi-

tion.

Craig was All-Madden’s most explosive player, making leaping and diving catches. He had seven catches for 198 yards and one touchdown.

“Even though we lost, everybody played hard-nose football. It was the mistakes that killed us,” said Craig.

Early in the third quarter, Craig caught a fantastic 30-yard pass from Windham, leaping over Golden Bears’ cornerback Donald Ray “Texas” Walker. As Walker fell to the ground, Craig ran for an additional 40 yard, into the end zone, edging the Golden Bears, 12-7.

The first half of play showed both teams at their defensive best. All-Madden’s defense frustrated the Golden Bears running game. D. “Zayd” Nicholson, the league defensive player of the year for All-Madden, sacked Rose five times, three in the first half. Nicholson had 18 sacks for the season, averaging four per game.

The Golden Bears did manage to score before half-time. With three minutes left in the half, Rose found tight end Mario Washington on a cross play after faking a run to running back Christopher “Cutty Bo” Smith to tie the score 6-6. The Golden Bears made the one-point con-

version, giving them a halftime one-point lead.

Windham stepped in to run the offensive because starting quarterback Antonio “Boobie” Cavitt was out recovering from surgery. His passing game timing was off due to little or no practice. The Golden Bears bought their own sets of blitzes and tight end coverage that helped box All-Madden in.

Golden Bears defensive end Shatka Wells sacked Windham three-times and cornerback Walker intercepted Windham once.

Like any good team, All-Madden made the proper adjustments. Windham settled in the pocket and found Craig for his first 25-yard reception, moving the chains down the field. The next play Windham used his speed and athleticism to weave through the Golden Bears, pressuring defense for a 30-yard touchdown run to open up a 6-0 lead in the first quarter.

All-Madden failed to complete any of its one-point conversion attempts, which ultimately contributed to losing the game. Those three points could have sent the game into overtime.

The Golden Bears went undefeated at 3-0 for the championship, while All-Madden finished the season 4-1.

After the game on this warm and sunny day, all the players and officials formed a circle and thanked All-Madden head coach and league Commissioner Chris Markham for salvaging the football season.

## There’s More to NFL Officiating Than it Seems

Key to all football games are the officials.

These are the seven uniformed individuals who don black and white striped jerseys, black and white pants, black shoes and caps.

They interpret and enforce game rules, enforce penalties, monitor the game clock and timeouts. They also aim to keep players from hurting each other.

The referee is the head official. He wears a white cap; the others wear black caps. The letter R on the back of his jersey denotes his position.

He is responsible for the general supervision of the game.

He stands in the offensive backfield, 10-12 yards behind the line of scrimmage. He monitors the quarterback, illegal blocks and illegal hits on the quarterback.

The umpire wears the letter U on the back of his jersey.

He makes sure players’ equipment is legal, and watches the play on the line of scrimmage, which includes making sure the offense has 11 or fewer players. He stands on the defense’s side of the ball, 4 to 5 yards from scrimmage. He needs to move out of the way quickly on running plays.

The umpire calls most the holding penalties and watches for offensive linemen going downfield on a pass play.

The head linesman wears HL on the back of his jersey.

He stands with one foot on each side of the line of scrimmage. He monitors encroachment, off sides and illegal players downfield.

He handles the chain to measure first downs, and spots forward progress by a ball carrier. He assists the line judge with monitoring illegal movements/shifts by receivers and running backs on his side of the field.

He has to know who the “eligible” receivers are before each play. For example, in week 14 (Dec. 7, 2014) of the NFL season, during the Battle of the Bay game between the Oakland Raiders and the San Francisco 49ers, the Raiders’ left tackle, Donald Penn (No. 72), caught a pass for a touchdown. Linemen normally cannot catch passes, but Penn was allowed to because he was designated eligible before the play.

The line judge wears LJ on the back of his jersey.

He stands on the line of scrimmage opposite the head linesman. He monitors violations for offsides, encroachment and illegal shifts/motions. He assists with other calls such as illegal use of the hands and holding, particularly on kicking and passing plays. He assists the referee in making certain the quarterback does not cross the line of scrimmage on a forward pass, watches forward laterals behind scrimmage, false starts. When the ball is punted, he stays on the line of scrimmage to make sure the ends do not move downfield before the ball is kicked.

The line judge supervises substitutions by the team on his side of the field, and the timing of the game. He also informs the referee of the two-minute warning and when time expires at the end of a quarter.

The back judge wears BJ on the back of his jersey.

He stands 20 yards from scrimmage on the side of the defense on the wide receiver side of the field. He makes certain the defense has no more than 11 players, and he monitors receivers on his side of the field.

The back judge monitors catches, recovery and illegal touching of loose balls that go beyond the line of scrimmage. He rules on pass interference and whether a receiver has possession of the ball before going out of bounds.

He makes clipping calls on punt returns. During extra point and field goal attempts, he and the field judge stand under the goalpost and rule whether kicks are good.

The field judge wears FJ on the back of his jersey.

He lines up on the same side as the home team, 20 yards downfield. In the NFL, he is responsible for the 40- and 25-second clock. The field judge also counts the number of players on the defense. He is responsible for passes crossing the defense’s goal and fumbles in his area. He observes the tight ends’ pass patterns, watches for pass interference, and makes decisions on catches, recovery, out-of-bounds spots and illegal touching of a ball fumbled after it has crossed the line of scrimmage. He also looks for offensive players’ illegal use of the hands, especially the wide receivers, and for defensive players on his side of the field.

The side judge wears SJ on the back of his jersey.

He stands 20 yards from the line of scrimmage, downfield opposite the field judge. He is a second set of eyes on long pass attempts. According to *Football for Dummies* (3<sup>rd</sup>), on extra point and field goal attempts, the side judge also lines up with the umpire under the goalpost and rules whether kicks are good. The side judge was added to the NFL in 1978 as the seventh official due to teams passing the ball more. Some high school games are played without a side judge, but college teams have adopted the use of this official.

– By Kevin D. Sawyer

## Lakers Dominate Championship Game Over the Youngsters, 31-25

**By Rahsaan Thomas**  
**Sports Editor**

The San Quentin Lakers over-38 half-court team showed they know how to use a broom in their undefeated playoff run to become Championship Basketball League champions by beating the Youngsters, 31-25.

“We swept everybody,” said D. “Frog” DeWitt after winning the championship on Dec. 1.

In the CBL, created by Aaron “Harun” Taylor, the players were drafted in rounds, just like the NBA. Allan McIntosh, Joseph “Wig” Kelly, DeWitt, Vincent O’Bannon, Kevin Faquwa and Demitris McGee were picked up by Lakers coach Edward Moss.

“When I drafted my team, there were no doubts in my mind we would be in this position,” said Moss.

The Youngsters made it all the way to the finals to face the Lakers in a Cinderella tale. Only P. “Strange” Walker was picked when their coach, Maurice Gipson, failed to attend draft night. Gary Townes, Will Anderson, Kenny Ray and Andre Yancy were compiled from leftovers. Jeffery “Mailman” Ratchford and Antonio “Boobie” Cavitt came later.

“I’m proud to be part of this team. A lot of people thought we wouldn’t win a game and we started off 7-0,” said Townes. The Youngsters finished the regular season 8-1.

“We did good by our standards,” said Ratchford.

The Lakers beat the Youngsters by an average of 10 points

in their first two games of the season, but the third encounter in the finals was closer. With their backs against the wall, the Youngsters came out aggressively. Walker had his best game of the playoffs, scoring 10 baskets on 10/16 shooting, and hit a free throw for 11 points. He completed a double-double with 11 boards. Ratchford added 7 points and 10 rebounds.

The Lakers started out with a 3-0 run and led midway through until O’Bannon, who was guarding Walker, subbed out for Faquwa due to a prior injury flaring up. The 6-foot-5 Walker took advantage inside and scored five baskets almost in a row to take a 14-13 lead.

Once the stocky O’Bannon came back in the game, Walker’s production slowed down.

“We won on defense when we put (O’Bannon) back on Strange,” said Kelly.

“My shoulder was injured in the first game. I had to help my teammates out,” said O’Bannon. “Strange might be taller than me, but I played bigger than him.”

The lead was short-lived. The Youngsters had no answer for McIntosh and Kelly. McIntosh made a layup on Ratchford, tying the score at 14. Then McIntosh went on to make his team’s next three baskets.

“It was a mismatch ‘cause I can’t stop (McIntosh) and he can’t stop me,” said Ratchford.

McIntosh scored 15 points on 11/17 shooting from the field and hitting three of four free throws. McIntosh was named the finals

MVP by Taylor.

“This was too easy. I just go out there and try stuff,” said McIntosh.

Kelly only made two out of 11 three-point attempts (worth only two points each in this league). However, Walker could not stop his first step. Kelly scored seven baskets inside, for a total of 11 points and snatched 12 rebounds.

“It wasn’t easy (getting around Walker), especially with a swollen knee; I had to play through pain,” said Kelly.

“The games were very competitive. I don’t believe they had an edge. I believe we didn’t play up to our potential. They showed up; we didn’t,” said Townes.

“We had a great coaching staff. They executed well, calling timeouts and giving us breathers,” said DeWitt, who added three baskets and a free throw for four points.

“We’re a complete team; no individuals. When you play together as one, you win,” said Lakers GM Donald “Tex” Walker.

For next season, Taylor said he would like to see better officiating, live play-by-play and the games taped and aired on the institutional TV channel.

“This season was better. The guys coming together with a prize and the level of play picking up made the games more interesting,” said Taylor.

“I’m not of age, but this is a good league for the older guys. I hope to play at that level at their age,” said S.Q. Warrior Harry “ATL” Smith.



# Staying Connected With Sports Through Coaching

**By Rahsaan Thomas  
Sports Editor**

Coaching gives ex-players a way to stay close to the sport they love and share their knowledge. When injuries or age push them to the sideline, they became teachers of the game, but the job comes with some difficulties.

“Once I stopped being able to play, I wanted to stay involved,” said S.Q. Kings As-

sistant Coach Ishmael Freelon. “I love teaching — showing younger cats things they can’t see, bringing out talent they don’t think they have, encouraging.”

“When I hurt my knee and had to have surgery, it was time to stop playing and start teaching,” said All-Madden Coach Isaiah “Adbur Raheem” Thompson-Bonilla.

“I like being able to share knowledge of the game to

help others elevate theirs — if they’re coachable,” said S.Q. Athletics Coach John “Yah-Yah” Parratt. “I love seeking and spotting new talent.”

*“Cutting people is the hardest thing to do – seeing that look on a guy’s face when you have to tell him he didn’t make the team or when you play many tight games and some guys don’t get to play”*

All of the coaches have years of experience to share. Some even played at the semi-pro level.

Thompson-Bonilla started playing football at age 9 for Pop Warner and made it to the Canadian pro league. There, he played for Toronto and then the Chicago Argonauts with quarterback Doug Flutie.

“Coaching sports teaches a sense of community on a small scale and getting brothers to come together to obtain a common goal,” Thompson-Bonilla said.

Parratt played for the New York Yankees farm club, the



Mike Tyler and coach Frankie Smith (right) smile for camera

Calaveras Cementers and for the Cijus Phillies out of Danville. In high school he played right field and shortstop for the Shasta Wolves, then second base for the Shasta College Knights.

Freelon played point guard for Bell High School until he blew his knee out in 12<sup>th</sup> grade. “Being so good at point guard allowed me to see places where people needed to be on the court,” said Freelon. S.Q. Kings Head Coach Orlando Harris gave him the opportunity to help coach the Kings.

Harris started as a boxing trainer, which gave him the discipline to coach the game he loves – basketball. He started as a player for the S.Q. Kings. When the previous coaches didn’t show commitment, he stepped up, asked for the job and got it. He led the Kings to back-to-back winning seasons, 18-6 in 2012, and 19-5 in 2013.

The key to coaching is “being able to create a team concept while having individual relationships with each player,” said Harris.

“It’s about TEAM, Together Each Achieves More,” Parratt said.

Nevertheless, coaching isn’t easy. The hardest part is “having to cut players and having to tell players if they don’t come to practice, they can’t play,” said Thompson-Bonilla. “Some of San Quentin’s best players aren’t represented on All-Madden because many chose not to play because of a lack of commitment to practice.”

“Cutting people is the hardest thing to do – seeing that look on a guy’s face when you have to tell him he didn’t make the team or when you play many tight games and some guys don’t get to play,” Parratt said.



Coach Orlando “Duck” Harris (middle) brings the Warriors together to strategize on the next play

## Half-court Basketball Promotes ‘Unity in Community’

*‘This tournament is more than just a basketball game. It is an opportunity for our community to unite and build a stronger support system for one another’*

Several inmates celebrated the holidays with a half-court basketball one-day elimination tournament. Adnan Khan led his team to a 19-12 victory.

“Events like this put the unity in community,” said Khan.

“I consider these guys my family. This was the next best thing to being with family for the holidays,” said Rafael Cuevas.

Seven teams, with members picked in rounds like a draft, battled to win the prize of one soda, Snickers, honey bun and a pack of vanilla cookies each. Any team with two losses was booted from the contest.

After playing about five games, the two teams in the finals were Khan, Cuevas, Harold Meeks, Tom Saevang and Jonathan Chui pitted against Phirak Kim, Damon Cooke, Alladin Pangilinan, Nick Lopez and Phoeun You.

“I want you to score at least 11 points. We got the other eight. That’s teamwork,” Cuevas told Khan just before the game started.

Khan did much more than



Front: Vinh Nguyen; Middle: Juilo Martinez, Alladin Pangilinan  
Back row: Jonathan Chiu, David Chow, Phirak Kim, Adnan Khan, Upu Ama, Zitsue Lee, John Wang and David Kim

that. He scored 16 points and snatched 12 rebounds.

“My team played exceptional defense and got me the ball so I could make easy shots,” said Khan.

Pangilinan, who was guarding Khan, answered back with six points and six rebounds, but Khan was unstoppable, hitting layups, short-range jumpers, making shots from three-point

range and a technical free-throw that was worth three points.

“He got away from me,” said Pangilinan. “I’m 38; he’s only 21. Main thing is having fun

and playing with passion. We did that.”

“This tournament is more than just a basketball game. It is an opportunity for our community to unite and build a stronger support system for one another.” You said about the Dec. 26 event.

“It was a good tournament. Friendly games, hardly any technical fouls, high energy and everybody played great,” said John Wang, the tournament organizer.

For the second year in a row, Lopez tricked the opposing team into passing him the ball by calling a fake check. He then laid the ball up for an easy basket.

Another team that did well was Vi Chau, Eli Fejeran, David Kim and Donald Ray “Texas” Walker Jr. A key player, Reginald Hola, couldn’t make it to the game. Despite missing one of their best, they upset several teams and made it to the final four.

“Playing ball feels good; it releases a lot of stress,” said Fejeran.

“We have to do this more often,” said Juilo Saca, who played in the tournament.

– By Rahsaan Thomas



# Guests Hear 19 Gifted Writers At Ninth Annual 'Brothers in Pen' Event

By Leslie Lakes  
Contributing Writer

On a warm, sunny Saturday in November, more than 60 guests from outside the prison traversed the lower yard – past a football game, a basketball game and men doing pushups and stretches – to the ARC building to attend the ninth annual “Brothers in Pen” public reading.

This event, introduced by creative writing instructor Zoe Mullery and with Julian Glenn “Luke” Padgett serving ably as master of ceremonies, featured short readings of fiction or memoir (or some combination of the two) from 19 gifted writers.

Intelligent, insightful and intimate, some of the stories were nostalgic, some autobiographical, some pure fantasy. Writing styles ran the gamut from humorous to gritty, raw and edgy, tender and sensitive, light and dark, creative and entertaining ... each touching on personal truth in a wide variety of ways.

The readings began with Arnulfo T. Garcia’s “The Counselor,” an excerpt from the first chapter of his memoir – written for his daughter so that she could understand who her father is – and concluded with Michael Zell’s “Wisdom Exhortation,” a story about the mystery of finding wisdom in a place where it is difficult to know how to share it.

Each piece segued seamlessly, one to another. Listening to this collective of talented writers, the audience was reminded that they are far more than incarcerated “men in blue.” They are also fathers, sons, husbands, lovers, friends, brothers, former businessmen and students. The writer Ella Turenne wrote in a *Huffington Post* article about a previous Brothers in Pen reading: “In each of these stories lay the foundation of humanity. In word, inflection and intention was the truth: everyone has a story. One story is no better than the other, but collectively, they make up life as we know it.” ([huffingtonpost.com/ella-turenne/brothers-in-pen\\_b\\_1002433.html](http://huffingtonpost.com/ella-turenne/brothers-in-pen_b_1002433.html))

Ron Koehler’s “Letter’s End, Heart’s Beginning” is a sweet and tender memory of his toddler son’s embodiment of innocence. “There were birds he attracted, too, his spirit pulling them right out of the sky, a baby-blue boy heaven above the Penn State Campus, blue birds with proud chests and courageously continuous songs of flying delight. Sky droplets of God’s joy.” The love permeating the story aches from the first sentence: “My son’s letters stopped coming, but my heart remembered.”

Wayne Boatwright’s “500 Lbs of Happiness” is a tale of how a child’s small gesture produced a quarter ton of happiness for two incarcerated men. The story brought a smile to everyone’s face.

Emile DeWeaver’s “Crumbling Brick Dreams” was reminiscent of O’Henry’s style of short story writing, using wit, wordplay, warm characteriza-



Photo by Peter Merts

The men of ‘Brothers in Pen’ with instructor Zoe Mullery



Photo by Peter Merts

Host of the event Julian Glenn “Luke” Padgett entertains the audience

tion and a clever ending.

Rahsaan Thomas’s “Institutionalized” pulled the listener in from the get-go, with a driving pace and musical rhythm to his phrasing to give form to the meaning of his tale.

Eric Curtis’ “Not So Ugly Anymore” is a story where the “bullied” comes to the rescue of the “bullier.”

Kenneth Brydon, who read a story entitled “Mad World,” was recently published in an anthology titled “Prison Noir,” edited by Joyce Carol Oates.

The readings were followed by a brief Q&A period revealing deeper insights. When asked: “Writing is hard work. What helps?” some responses were: “I love writing. Writing is its own reward.”

“Writing is like breathing.”

“It’s freedom. It’s how I share my inner world, through imagery.”

“It helps me to untangle my thoughts to gain deeper self perception.”

“Writing serves as therapy.”

And a facetious single word: “Lockdowns.”

When asked by a woman who was struggling with confidence in her own work: “What makes you think that you have the right to share your stories?” the men responded in persuasive fashion: “Every human being has a right to tell their own story.”

“It’s a fundamental human trait to share through storytelling. To NOT do so is to deny your humanity and identity.”

“To create is an essential gift of freedom!”

One of the guests was asked what she liked best about the event. She replied, “Hearing the men read their own story lends a vastly different experience for me than reading their stories myself. It reveals a whole other

dimension since their emotions and unique individual personalities came through.”

The Brothers in Pen class is a place where the men find their voices to work through their struggles to cope while serving their terms and find an essential sense of dignity, acknowledgment and empowerment through personal creative expression.

A blog at [brothersinpen.wordpress.com](http://brothersinpen.wordpress.com) has information about the anthologies and occasional updates about the class.

The class is sponsored by the William James Association’s Prison Arts Project ([william-jamesassociation.org](http://william-jamesassociation.org)). Heartfelt thanks were communicated to Community Partnership Manager Steve Emrick, San Quentin’s Public Information Officer Lt. Samuel Robinson, Executive Director of the William James Association Laurie Brooks, as well as Carol Newborg, Cory

Georgeson, Peter Merts (photographer who has been documenting Prison Arts Projects events for years) and Walkenhorst (represented by Natalie To-var) for providing snacks for all. The late Jeffrey Little, a former member of the class who died shortly after paroling last year, was honored and remembered.

Zoe Mullery began the day by quoting celebrated short story writer Tobias Wolff, who visited the “Brothers in Pen” creative writing class several years ago, from his foreword to one of the anthologies: “We are story-telling animals ... It’s how we organize the past, and try to make sense of it – to see the patterns our actions and inactions create, to see how those patterns break or repeat themselves. Stories are the embodiment of those patterns, and in them – even in the stories of others – we can begin to recognize ourselves.”



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Award Winner

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Photo by Sam Hearn

Ruth Sanchez and Stephanie Hammond  
meeting inside the San Quentin newsroom

## S.Q. Inmates Lend a Hand To NorCal Special Olympics

By **Rahsaan Thomas**  
Sports Editor

Inmates inside San Quentin State Prison are currently supporting the Special Olympics Northern California Program and looking for more ways to do it.

"The inmate population is very cutting edge when it comes to fund raising...other programs

want to mirror what I do with you. You're doing the food sales," said Ruth Sanchez, the senior development director for the Special Olympics Northern Region.

Sanchez visited San Quentin on Jan. 6 to thank inmates for what they have raised so far and to discuss further ways to contribute.

See *S.Q.* on Page 5

## Searching for Fungus

By **Juan Haines**  
Managing Editor

At a cost of \$5.4 million, state prison officials have conducted a voluntary screening of California inmates to find out who has been exposed to the soil-borne fungus that causes valley fever.

Experts say that people who have already been exposed to the

fungus are generally immune to repeat infections.

Prison officials are planning to transfer a limited number of those who have been previously exposed to the fungus to two facilities where 83 percent of valley fever cases in the California prison system occurred in

See *Searching* on Page 8



Photo courtesy of CDCR

Pleasant Valley State Prison

## Watani Leaves San Quentin Again...This Time It's Legit



File Photo

Watani Stiner enjoying his freedom

By **Arnulfo T. Garcia**  
Editor-in-Chief

One of the few men ever to escape San Quentin State Prison walked out legitimately this time, after a long stint in the

same prison.

In 1974, Watani Stiner fled the U.S. and lived as a fugitive in South America for the next two decades before turning himself into U.S. authorities.

"There was a civil war going

on in Suriname," Stiner said. "All the chaos and turmoil going on made me worry for the safety of my family. I walked into the U.S. embassy to negotiate my

See *Watani* on Page 4

## California's Recidivism Rate Declines In the Three Years Since Realignment

By **Kevin D. Sawyer**  
Journalism Guild Chairman

A recent study finds that the number of inmates released from state prison in California and returned to custody has declined since the implementation of Realignment (AB 109).

Three years after the program to send some parole violators and non-violent, non-serious offenders to local correction authorities, the Public Policy Institute of California (PPIC) researched the effectiveness of Realignment to see if recidivism in the state had been reduced.

"Prior to the implementation of California's 2011 public safety realignment (AB 109), the state's prison system had one of the nation's highest recidivism rates," PPIC reported.

"Authorities frequently used parole revocations rather than new criminal prosecutions to



Photo courtesy of CDCR

Attorney General Kamala Harris

See *Declining* on Page 14



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Prisoners United in the Craft of Journalism  
In collaboration with students from the



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The San Quentin News encourages inmates, free staff, custody staff, volunteers and others outside the institution to submit articles. All submissions become property of the San Quentin News.

Please use the following criteria when submitting:

- Limit your articles to no more than 350 words.
- Know that articles will be edited for content and length.
- The newspaper is not a medium to file grievances. (For that, use the prison appeals process.) We encourage submitting articles that are newsworthy and encompass issues that will have an impact on the prison populace.
- Please do not use offensive language in your submissions.
- Poems and art work (cartoons and drawings) are welcomed.
- Letters to the editor should be short and to the point.

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One of San Quentin's First Female Officers Behind the Wall

REPRINTED FROM THE SIERRA STAR

In the early 1970s, Wendy Woods' life was in turmoil. She was a young mother with three children ages 1, 5 and 7, in the middle of a divorce, and her job in the visitor center with the California Youth Authority near Sonoma was ending due to the facility's closure. All these circumstances led her to work for San Quentin.

"It was supposed to be a lateral transfer," Woods explained to Morgan Voorhis of the *Sierra Star*. "But I was thrown into the sea of male inmates and correctional officers, and was told I would be working the same positions as the male officers ... that because the Equal Opportunity Rights had passed, I would become [one of] the first female officers hired there ... their first guinea pig."

"That first week was the worst. They used every tactic they could to scare us off," Woods continued. "They sent us all over the prison, into the towers, put us on every shift. They sent us to blocks and told us that we had to shower the inmates. It's only because the inmates threw such a fit that we were pulled from that duty."

Woods, who was simply looking for a job to support herself and her children, ended up working at San Quentin for two and a half years. As a female guard, Woods stood out, and was an easy target for both the guards and inmates. However, once the inmates realized the guards wanted her gone, they became her allies ... her protectors.

Woods worked towers, gun walls (guarding the walls' perimeter, where she would sit for eight hours, with her Colt 45, Remington rifle and a shotgun) and in the armory.

"A lot of the guards thought I was a woman's libber, thought I was going to go after the easier jobs — some of the games the guards would play," Woods said.

By this time, Woods had not only become the darling of the local media, but the national media, as well. She appeared on the television show "To Tell the Truth" on April 4, 1973; and "What's My Line" on June 14, 1973. She received huge sacks of "fan" mail — some congratulating her and others wondering why she would ever want to work at Big Q in the first place.

Woods drove out the gate one day following her shift and decided again that she would never return. She called the following day, using her two weeks' vaca-

tion as her notice. Shortly after leaving, she heard, through the media, that one of the more compassionate correctional officers had been beaten to death by inmates after he discovered drugs. Woods took a moment to thank God that she had made it out alive despite her constant exposure to some of society's most hardened criminals.

Woods saw a lot of things during her brief stint — the gas chamber, the old dungeon used for solitary confinement in the late 1800s, where an inmate was alone with nothing more than a "pot to pee in."

Since quitting, she has never had contact with anyone associated with the prison. Post San Quentin, Woods took a year to recuperate, working as a freelance artist for children's books. She finished her education, earning a Bachelor's Degree in Human Relations and Administration from the University of San Francisco. She then worked as a mental health clinician and after retiring, relocated to be closer to her grandchildren.

At 72 years of age, Woods now has time for writing, painting and gardening. She is active as a volunteer in the United Methodist Church, and has written a book, *Flowers and Guns*, which offers a humorous slant on her early experiences as a female guard working at San Quentin.

"I paved a trail for women at San Quentin, and now there are women in the Special Service Unit, which deals with escapes. They are the super cops of the prison," Woods said. "Even though I have slowed down a bit, I still enjoy being busy. I have always believed that one should at least accomplish something while still here on the planet."

"She had to absorb a lot of criticism from a lot of people," former captain of the guards, William Merkle, who hired Woods, once said. "I have to give her credit for that. The sex barrier that she broke will never be rebuilt."

The total number of female peace officers today is 142 out of 937 total custody staff members.

[SQ Editor's note: San Quentin Alumni Association records show that in the summer of 1955, Dorothy Taylor, a clerk at San Quentin, was assigned temporarily to serve as a guard for condemned inmate Barbara Graham while Graham resided on Death Row. Following Graham's execution on June 3, 1955, Taylor returned to her clerical duties. However, once women began to be hired as guards in the 1970s, Taylor was officially promoted to CO and she retired as a CO.]



Ex-Correctional Officer Wendy Woods holding her book "Flowers and Guns"



# FBI Reports 4-Year Drop in Violent and Property Crimes

## 'Violent crimes dropped from about 1,325,000 in 2009 to 1,163,146 in 2013'

**By Charles David Henry**  
**Journalism Guild Writer**

Violent and property crimes were down significantly for four years in America, according to an FBI report.

The estimated number of violent crimes dropped from about 1,325,000 in 2009 to 1,163,146 in 2013, the report shows. Property crimes dropped from about 9,300,000 in 2009 to 8,632,512 in 2013.

The FBI reported the estimated number of violent crimes decreased 4.4 percent in 2013 when compared to 2012. The 2012 figures were slightly ahead of the 2011 total – the only hike in the four-year period.

The estimated number of property crimes was also down 4.1 percent from 2012 to 2013, the latest period for which data was available.

Statistics used by the FBI come from 18,415 city, county, state, tribal, campus and federal law enforcement agencies. Violent crimes contained in the report include murder, rape, robbery and aggravated assault. Property crimes include burglary, larceny-theft, motor vehicle theft and arson.

The primary goal of this report is to “assess and monitor the nature and type of crime in the nation and to generate reliable information for use in the law enforcement administration, operations and management,” the report states.

Legislators, criminologist, sociologists, municipal planners, the media and students of the criminal justice system collect statistics for research and planning. However, users of this information are warned not to use it if making direct comparisons between municipalities.

According to the report, “Valid assessments are only possible with an understanding of various factors affecting each jurisdiction.”

During 2013, the highest number of arrests was for drug abuse violations (estimated at 1,051,043), larceny-theft

(1,231,580) and driving under the influence (1,166,824).

Law enforcement agencies made an estimated 11,302,102 arrests (including 480,360 for violent crimes and 1,559,284 for property crimes), according to the FBI report.

There were an estimated 14,196 murders committed in 2013.

Aggravated assault accounted for the largest percentage of violent crimes reported: 724,149 or 62.3 percent.

Firearms were used in 69 percent of the nation's murders, 40 percent of robberies and 21.6 percent of aggravated assaults.

An estimated 79,770 rapes were reported.

Victims of burglaries suffered an estimated \$4.5 billion in property losses and burglaries of residential properties accounted for 74 percent of total reported.

Larceny-thefts accounted for the largest percentage of property crimes reported to law enforcement: 69.6 percent. The average value of property taken during larceny thefts was \$1,259.

An estimated 699,594 motor vehicles were reported stolen, and 73.9 percent or those were cars. (Other types of stolen vehicles, included trucks, sport utility vehicles, buses, motorcycles, motor scooters, all-terrain vehicles and snowmobiles.)

# Wall Street Journal Reports Judges Using Risk Assessment Measures Before Deciding Criminal Sentences

**By Chung Kao**  
**Journalism Guild Writer**

Judges around the country are turning to risk-evaluation tools in making sentencing decisions, says the *Wall Street Journal*.

“Risk-evaluation tools have emerged as a centerpiece of efforts to reduce the U.S. inmate population,” reported Joe Palazzolo in a recent article of the *Wall Street Journal*.

Palazzolo said the increasing use of risk assessment measures “reflects a broad effort to bring a more scientific approach to deci-

sions made by judges, parole officers and corrections officials.”

“The measures vary widely but generally are based on an offender's criminal history and, in addition to age and sex, may include marital status, employment and education,” said Palazzolo, citing Professor Sonja Starr of the University of Michigan.

Criminal-justice experts consider attributes such as age or sex to be strong predictions of whether an offender is likely to commit a crime in the future.

“But the adoption of (risk-evaluation) tools has sparked a

debate over which factors are acceptable,” Palazzolo wrote.

For example, Pennsylvania uses county of residence as one of the factors considered in sentencing, and Missouri uses education level and employment.

U.S. Attorney General Eric Holder was quoted by Palazzolo saying that basing sentencing on factors such as a defendant's education level “may exacerbate unwarranted and unjust disparities.”

Starr believes the disparities created by risk measures are evident. “When it comes down

to it, these assessments stand for the proposition that judges should sentence people longer because they were in foster care as children or had too many bouts of unemployment,” she said.

There is no research yet on whether the use of risk evaluations in sentencing has aggravated racial disparities.

On the other hand, Professor Christopher Slobogin of Vanderbilt University believes the alternative was potentially worse. “At least these risk-assessment instruments don't ex-

plicitly focus on race or poverty, unlike what might occur in a sentencing regime where judges are making risk assessments based on seat-of-the-pants evaluations,” he said.

In Nebraska, U.S. District Judge Richard Kopf posed the question, “If race, gender or age are predictive as validated by good empirical analysis, and we truly care about public safety while at the same time depopulating our prisons, why wouldn't a rational sentencing system freely use race, gender or age as predictor of future criminality?”

# Report: Feds Shift Toward Cutting High Prison Population and Costs

**Wesley R. Eisiminger**  
**Journalism Guild Writer**

The federal prison system is trying to cut its dangerously overcrowded facilities and the cost of running them, according to a report from a nonpartisan research and educational organization.

“The federal prison population has escalated from under 25,000 inmates in 1980 to over 219,000 today,” noted the non-profit Urban Institute.

The report blamed much of the overcrowding on the Sentencing Reform Act of 1984. It led to mandatory prison sentences for drug offenses, which previously included fines and/

or probation, not prison.

The result: great expense to taxpayers. It costs \$29,000 per year for each federal prisoner. The 2014 budget is \$6.9 billion. Note: California's cost per inmate is more than \$60,000 or \$10.4 billion a year.

To cut costs, the federal system could look at reducing mandatory minimum drug sentencing by “only accepting certain types of drug cases, diverting cases to states and reducing drug prosecution in other ways,” says the report, dated November 2013.

“Reducing the number of drug offenders is the quickest way to yield an impact on both population and cost,”

the report says. This could be accomplished by instructing prosecutors to modify charging practices, and by amending statutory penalties.

Lowering the number of drug offenders entering federal prison by 10 percent would save \$644 million over a 10-year period; reducing drug sentences by 10 percent would save \$538 over 10 years, the report states.

The federal government could also look at the early release of elderly and terminally ill inmates and the transfer of foreign national inmates to their native countries. About a quarter of the federal prisoners are not U.S. citizens. Expanding elderly and compassionate



Photo courtesy of Wikipedia

Lompoc Federal Prison

release and doubling international transfers would reduce spending by almost \$15 million, says the report.

“To yield a meaningful im-

pact on population and cost, a mix of reforms to sentencing, prosecution and early release policies are required,” the Urban Institute concludes.

# Groups Work Together to Stop Architects' Unethical Prison Designs

A group of planners and designers is working to prevent architects from designing prison spaces for executions and solitary confinement.

The goal is to prevent architects from designing spaces “for killing, torture and cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment,” explained San Francisco-based architect Raphael Sperry. He leads the group called Architects/Designers/Planners for Social Responsibility.

**CODE OF ETHICS**

The group is asking the American Institute of Architects (AIA) to change its Code

of Ethics to prohibit the design of spaces intended for executions and prolonged solitary confinement, as in supermax prisons, according to Martin C. Pedersen, author of a Point of View article in the Dec. 11, 2013, *Metropolis* blog.

Sperry said the United Nations Special Rapporteur on Torture in 2011 defined solitary confinement as a human right violation if done to youth, the mentally ill or anyone else for over 15 days.

Intentionally killing people, even in a state-ordered execution, deprives people of their more fundamental human right:

life itself, Pedersen wrote.

**HUMAN RIGHTS**

The AIA's current code requires members to “uphold human rights in all their professional endeavors.” However, the organization has no enforceable rules to provide discipline if a member designs a space intended to violate human rights, Sperry said.

Getting the AIA to commit to this code would “put the architectural profession on the same level as all U.S. medical associations the prohibit their members' participation in executions, torture and cruel, inhu-

man and degrading treatment,” Sperry said.

“It would also help to slow or halt the progress of specific projects that will injure or kill people, and at the broader level help to shift public perceptions of our justice system away from ever harsher methods of punishment towards approaches that emphasize public safety and community restoration,” he commented.

**SUPER MAX PRISONS**

Sperry said for a currently accepted punitive practice to be found cruel and unusual, the court must cite an evolving standard of decency towards a

mature society. If architects collectively say that we have reappraised the dozens of supermax prisons built in recent decades and that we won't build places like that any more, what could be a clearer evolution of decency than that?”

The San Francisco AIA chapter became the first to formally endorse the group's proposal. There have been endorsements by Amnesty International, the National Religious Campaign Against Torture, the American Civil Liberties Union and DesignCorps, among other groups.

—By Charles David Henry

# Justice Dept. Claims Systematic Adolescent Abuse at Rikers Island

## 'Adolescent inmates at Rikers are not adequately protected from harm'

By **Rahsaan Thomas**  
Staff Writer

Adolescent inmates are systematically abused by guards and fellow prisoners in New York City's Rikers Island, violating their constitutional rights, a U.S. Justice Department report concludes.

"We conclude that there is a pattern and practice of conduct at Rikers that violates the constitutional rights of adolescent inmates," the Aug. 4 report states. "In particular, we find that adolescent inmates at Rikers are not adequately protected from harm, including serious physical harm from the rampant use of unnecessary and excessive force by DOC (Department of Corrections) staff.

"In addition, adolescent inmates are not adequately protected from harm caused by violence inflicted by other inmates, including inmate-on-inmate fights.

"Indeed, we find that a deep-seated culture of violence is

pervasive throughout the adolescent facilities at Rikers, and DOC staff routinely utilize force not as a last resort, but instead as a means to control the adolescent population and punish disorderly or disrespectful behavior," the report states.

The report concludes "DOC relies far too heavily on punitive segregation as a disciplinary measure, placing adolescent inmates — many of whom are mentally ill — in what amounts to solitary confinement at an alarming rate and for excessive periods of time."

The situation violates "the Eighth Amendment and the Due Process Clause of the Fourteenth Amendment of the United States Constitution," the report also states.

The violent culture has re-

sulted in adolescents receiving a large number of serious injuries, including broken jaws, broken orbital bones, broken noses, long bone fractures and lacerations necessitating stitches.

DOJ focused its investigation on Rikers Island routines and behavior from 2011-2013.



Rikers Island City Jail

Photo courtesy of Wikipedia

They reviewed hundreds of reports, toured the jails with a use of force expert consultant, watched surveillance video when available, interviewed 46 adolescent inmates and interviewed several NYC Department of Correction staff members.

The DOJ found force is

used against adolescents at an alarming rate and violent inmate-on-inmate fights and assaults are commonplace, resulting in a striking number of serious injuries; and correction officers resort to "headshots," or blows to an inmate's head or facial area. Correction officers attempt to justify use of force by yelling, "stop resisting," even when the adolescent has been completely subdued or was never resisting in the first place.

Use of force is particularly common in areas without video surveillance cameras.

Recent reforms are inadequate, the report says. Reforms include:

- Additional staff added to adolescent housing areas
- Additional management positions, including the newly

created position Deputy Warden for Adolescents.

- A hotline for prisoners to report violence anonymously

"Although these initiatives are laudable, they have thus far done little to meaningfully reduce violence among the adolescent inmate population," the report says.

"The larger problem, however, is that by and large these reforms do not address — or even attempt to address — the core problem and the heart of our findings: use of excessive and unnecessary force by correction officers against adolescent inmates and the lack of accountability for such conduct."

The DOJ report recommends several measures to deal with the constitutional deficiencies. They include:

- Housing adolescents where they can be directly supervised
- Increase cameras
- Clarify use of force directive
- Ensure prompt use of force reporting.

# Watani Stiner Leaves San Quentin as a Free Citizen After 21 Years

Continued from Page 1

surrender for the love of my children."

## THE STINERS

Stiner, who was a columnist for the *San Quentin News* before he paroled, was born in Texas on Jan. 30, 1948. He is the son of George and Lula Mae Stiner. He has two brothers and two sisters.

Stiner said when he was 7 years old his mother wanted a change, so the family took a Greyhound bus to Los Angeles.

He said after arriving in the projects of Watts, he was excited to get back to school. Watts, he says, was a lot different from Texas.

Stiner said his father, a mathematics professor, taught at various black schools while his mother worked as a nurse. However, Stiner said his father's alcoholism eventually broke his family apart.

"Just when I thought I was settled into school, my mother took our family to the west side of Los Angeles," Stiner said.

After moving to West Los Angeles, Stiner said his other siblings from Texas joined the family.

Two months before graduating from Manuel Arts High School, Stiner said he married Hodari, his high school sweetheart. They had two children, Larry Jr. and Lionel. "I was a very proud father," he said.

To support his family, in 1967, Stiner said he got a job at Douglas Aircraft.

## CONFLICT, REVOLUTIONARIES AND WAR

"We not only made airplanes but bombs that were sent to Vietnam," Stiner said. "At that time, I was also taking classes at UCLA studying cinema photography and Political Science."

Stiner said as he became more educated, his political beliefs changed.

"I began to disagree with what Douglas Aircraft was doing," Stiner said. He said after two years of working at Douglas, he quit and got involved in a movement that led to the shootout on the UCLA campus. Stiner said after being convicted of conspiracy to commit murder, he and his brother received life sentences, while another defendant was sent to the Youth Authority.

Stiner said that once in the prison system, he and his brother were separated. Watani was sent to Soledad Prison and George to San Quentin.

He said everything changed two years later when in 1971, a Soledad prison guard was murdered and the Soledad Brothers went on trial for his murder. He said Soledad was completely locked down and a large number of blacks, considered revolutionaries, were transferred to other prisons.

Stiner was sent to San Quentin's Adjustment Center also known as "the hole." Records show that the Stiner broth-

ers should not be housed in the same prison, but no other prison would accept him, Stiner said. After two months in segregation, he was released to the general population.

For the next three years, he would share the same cell with

Quentin. The plan was successful in 1974.

## ON THE RUN

In South America, Stiner said, he established a new identity, a new life and settled down and had seven children.

perhaps for the rest of his natural life, he says it was a sacrifice he could live with.

## BACK IN THE HOLE

When he was returned to San Quentin, he was told he was going to Pelican Bay State Prison; the prison officials call a prison for the "worst of the worst." However his attorney arranged for him to be housed at San Quentin pending the outcome of the escape charges. During that time, he was returned to the Adjustment Center. After being found guilty of escape, the subsequent time added to his sentence was run concurrent to his life sentence.

Stiner spent 21 years back in prison since his surrender.

He said that he lived in agony for 11 years waiting for his children to come to the United States after he turned himself in. He smiles and proudly says "Three of my children have successfully graduated from college with their Bachelors of Arts degree."

While in prison Stiner spent most of his time working clerk jobs and in the library searching for ways to hold the government accountable for their agreement with him.



File Photo

Adviser Steve McNamara and Watani Stiner eating at Forge

George. However, Stiner said they both felt that because of the incident at Soledad, their lives were in danger. He said that at the time, they believed a squad was formed to destroy all revolutionaries.

He said they were living in constant fear. So, they devised a plan to escape from San

"It was difficult not having contact with my high school sweetheart and our two kids," Stiner said. "This was a pain I lived with every day. While living in Suriname, every time I saw my children, I was reminded of my two sons in America." Love is powerful, Stiner said, "especially when two innocent kids have no idea what happen to their daddy."

Stiner said authorities in the U.S. embassy confirmed he was convicted for the UCLA incident and in fact had escaped from San Quentin Prison. In exchanged for Stiner's surrender, his children were supposed to come to the U.S. with him.

Stiner said that although he knew, he would be incarcerated and away from his children,

## THE OG

Watani eventually became a staff member for *San Quentin News* and had this urge to reach out to the young troubled kids in order that they not get caught up in and pursue a negative life style. The OG Perspective Column was created.

"To stumble is not to fall only to move forward faster," Stiner said, referring to an African proverb that has inspired him to never accept failure and help change lives in a positive direction. "For the love of my children, it was worth it."

Stiner's future includes getting his memoirs published, a fascinating story about crime, murder, and redemption.

### Website Offers Help to Families of Those Incarcerated

A new and free search engine, [www.PrisonPath.com](http://www.PrisonPath.com), provides information for the public. The site helps users in clarifying confusion and fear of the unknown when a loved one is charged and arrested, or sentenced to imprisonment in the United States. PrisonPath provides information including the ability to find a person incarcerated, visitation rules, contact numbers, and more about every American prisons or jails. It also allows families and friends of inmates to communicate with each other on a specific page.



# Five Men Graduate From Intense VOEG Program

By Tommy Bryant  
Journalism Guild Writer

Five men graduated from a special program where they spent 18 months learning more about themselves and the impact their crimes had on others.

"It gets real hot in that room at times learning to communicate honestly and to relate empathy," said Wayne Boatwright, one of the H-Unit graduates of the Victim Offender Education Group (VOEG) program.

Inmate facilitator Benny Gray stated the course gives inmates "good tools for the street." It also helps them realize that "healing goes on for the victim's family and friends for life."

Joel McCarter said he learned to "Face what you did and no longer hide from it."

He noted that six men originally in the class dropped out.

"This class is not for everyone; you have to be determined ... many sign up but cannot face the reality," according to McCarter.

***"It gets real hot in that room at times learning to communicate honestly and to relate empathy"***

"The group gets even closer when you can trust everyone beyond the classroom," McCarter added.

Rodney Goldston commented, "You start to realize everyone's a victim from your actions and must hold yourself

accountable that you harmed a lot of people. VOEG is not a cure-all, but it gives you another option not to lash out."

Robert Randall recalls, "It's not easy facing up to what you have done to others; you want to tap out at times but you must ... stay with it."

Instructor Jim Ward remembers, "Robert could not sit still; he walked around like a nervous cat but was able to peel back the street crud eventually and settle into the reality of the group. Benny needed to be completed, and working as a facilitator helped him take responsibility."

"Joel's biggest challenge was calming down, losing the anger within, eventually becoming loose and relaxed."

Ward also said, "After 18 months, Rodney is now able to smile and has relieved a lot of the depression."

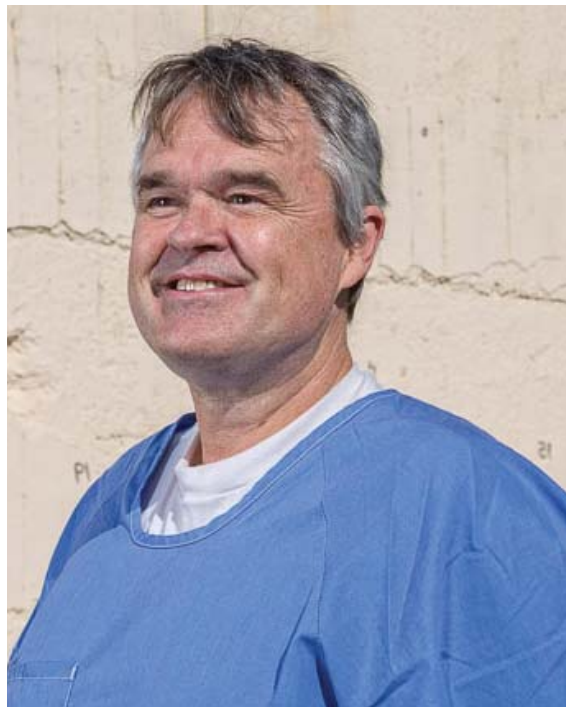


Photo courtesy of Peter Merts

Wayne Boatwright a graduate of the VOEG program

## Gov. Brown Signs Law to Deal With Criminal Records

*The Bill Removes the Practice of Automatic Rejections, or Mandatory Denials*

By Thomas Gardner  
Journalism Guild Writer

Gov. Jerry Brown has signed legislation aimed at eliminating obstacles faced by people with criminal records applying for certified nursing assistant licenses.

The measure, Senate Bill 1384, removes the requirement

that the state Department of Public Health deny certified nursing assistant licenses for applicants who have certain convictions on their records.

Sen. Holly Mitchell, D-Los Angeles, introduced the bill. It was supported by the San Francisco-based civil rights organization Equal Rights Advocates but was opposed by the health

department, according to a report by Sam Levin of The East Bay Blog News, Seven Days.

The bill removes the practice of automatic rejections, or mandatory denials, while keeping in place the department's ability to deny individuals found not suitable for certification, Levin reported.

"The blanket exclusion of

women who apply for CNA jobs solely on the basis of their conviction history means that they are being punished once again after they have served their time. These are women who ... are rehabilitated, and who are trying to make a living wage to support their families," Mitchell said in a statement.

Under current law, there are approximately 70 offenses, some non-violent, that lead to an automatic rejection of nursing assistant license, Levin notes.

Supporters of SB 1384 call it a reform and point out that a key element to reducing recidivism is access to employment, and that past criminal convictions do not necessarily dictate that a prospective employee's performance will be less than satisfactory, adds Levin.

"SB 1384 would limit (the

health department's) ability to deny a nursing assistant application ... and removes (its) ability to adequately protect patients," says an opposition letter signed by Monica Waggoner, a deputy health department director, according to Levin.

Levin adds some SB 1384 supporters pointed out that many healthcare professions, such as dentists and mental health workers, are not automatically denied licenses or certifications as result of a conviction.

"SB 1384 gives people the chance to prove - through character and employment references, certificates of training and treatment, and other relevant evidence - that they have overcome the significant life obstacles that led to their convictions," Mitchell noted.

## San Quentin Inmates Support NorCal Special Olympics

*Continued from Page 1*

Sanchez has found prisoners eager to support. In six months, almost \$80,000 was raised from California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation inmates in 15 different prisons to support the 30,000 Special Olympic athletes of California.

Northern California has 16,750 special athletes who compete year round in 11 sports.

Southern California has 11,000. The sports include basketball, track and field, swimming, floor hockey, golf, bowling, bocce, volleyball, softball, and tennis.

"Inmates approach us about their cousins and family members who have special needs... that's the connection. They want to help," said Sanchez. "I've learned so much in the last six months... I see the common theme of hope in special needs athletes and inmates."

Further ways to support, in addition to food sales, were discussed. They included organizing ice-water "plunges" and setting up a website for family members to contribute.

The money would go to sponsor athletes with special needs like Special Olympic champion Stephanie Hammond, who

used sports to overcome being bullied. A bully broke her leg in six places. She was introverted and home-schooled afterwards. Then she discovered sports and blossomed.

"I try not to let bullying bother me. It just makes me stronger," said Hammond. "Now I'm a global ambassador, CDCR ambassador, law enforcement ambassador, and I travel all over the nation. I've been to 25 states," said Hammond.

Hammond wore about seven of the nearly 1,000 medals she earned during her 17 years competing in Special Olympic basketball, bocce ball, and bowling. Hammond plans to start soccer in September. Her favorite sport is basketball. She's the starting point guard for a coed team with only four girls and averages 20 points a game.

"Some of my medals are in the governor's mansion," said Sanchez.

Eunice Shriver was heavily involved in special needs issues. Her son, Tim Shriver, took over after she died.

Sanchez is driven to help develop the Special Olympics because of her son, who has special needs. She has watched him develop self-confidence and get a job after having played in the events.

"Every time I help an athlete win an award or another race, I'm helping my son," said Sanchez.

Corrections in Arizona raised over a half-million dollars. Then CDCR's Jeff Beard offered support. Sanchez decided to go further and extended her hand for donations from the inmate population.

"We are all humans; we all have feelings...we aren't different from each other. We just have deferent circumstances," said Sanchez.

Avenal, Solano, and Mule Creek State Prisons have been very supportive, Sanchez noted.

"I went to Avenal State Prison, and 50-plus inmates had at least 30 questions. 'Thank you for not judging us and letting us feel connected,' they told me," said Sanchez. "Inmates send cards; they support. Avenal wants us to come back."

Other current sponsors included major corporations like Chevron and Kaiser Permanente, law enforcement, CDCR, inmate populations, and the community.

"Thank you CDCR and inmates for supporting us. Without ya'll, this wouldn't be possible. You are making a difference for 30,000 athletes," said Hammond.

## Kathrin Spears Ventures Inside San Quentin

By Michael Panella  
Contributing Writer

One of Marin County's top elected officials says more people should visit San Quentin State Prison for new insights into the men inside.

"I'm walking out of here with a different perspective of prison and wish more guests could experience this interaction," said county Board of Supervisors President Kathrin Spears.

She came inside the prison with Leslie Lava, a long-time San Quentin tennis program supporter. She was on hand to watch the Inside Tennis Team in action on June 14.

"I had a fantastic time and some great conversations with players who are talented and intelligent," said Spears.

Lava has not visited San Quentin for some time but said



File Photo

Kathrin Spears

she was "thrilled to be back," and has "missed playing tennis with the team."

Spears, who admits that she last played "22 years ago," picked up a racket and did something she'd never done before - hit tennis balls in San Quentin. "It was enlightening and fun," she said.

# EDITORIAL

By Arnulfo T. Garcia  
Editor-in-Chief

When the Safe and Responsible Driver Act (AB 60) took effect on Jan. 1, California driver's licenses became available to all California residents, regardless of immigration status. However, did you know up until 1994 driver's license applicants' immigration status didn't matter?

For the period between 1994 and 2015, people who lived and worked in California, but were excluded from legally driving in the state, just didn't stop driving.

Parents still needed to get their children to school. Workers still needed to get to work. The hardship created by excluding them from getting a driver's license merely created a new industry when their cars were confiscated, and

they were fined.

Accordingly, going back to pre-1994 rules allowing residents to apply for driver's licenses regardless of immigration status was common sense. The law change ended a burden placed upon otherwise law-abiding California residents.

Here are some answers to some of the most frequently asked questions about the new law:

Before going to the Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV), pay any outstanding traffic tickets and study for the driver's test. There is plenty of helpful material online. <http://driveca.org/apply/>.

It would best to set an appointment with DMV before going there to minimize waiting time.

You'll have to complete an application form and pay a fee

# Immigrants Gain Accessibility To California Driver's License

of \$33.

Make sure you have documents that prove your identity and California residency, such as a consular identification card or passport, utility bill or lease agreement, medical records, tax return, record of a financial institution or school records.

You may use documents under a spouse's name as proof of residency but no others in shared residences. If your documents have expired, they must be renewed.

You must pass an eye exam. You will have three chances to pass a written test that covers traffic laws.

Next, you will have to make a driving test appointment.

You must have proof of financial responsibility and insurance for the car. You will

have three chances to pass the driving test. The DMV website outlines the driving maneuvers that will be tested.

Your thumb print and picture will be taken for the license.

You must be able to respond to driving instructions in English, including pointing to safety features of your vehicle and performing driving maneuvers.

DMV examiners have experience administering tests to applicants who have limited English proficiency. However, applicants should practice responding to driving instructions in English to pass the test.

The new law allows for applications for all non-commercial driver's licenses offered through the DMV, including

Class C (most cars), Class MI/M2 (motorcycles), Noncommercial Class A or B (travel trailers, some RVs).

The new licenses are for driving. However, they may be used as identification to police officers.

It is unlawful for businesses, landlords, government agencies or an entity that receives state funds to discriminate against you based on the type of license you have.

The new licenses do not give their holders a right to vote.

The documents provided to the DMV to prove identity, name, residency and age are not public records, and the DMV may not disclose this information, except when requested by a law enforcement agency as part of an investigation.

# Inmigrantes Obtienen Accesibilidad A Licencias de Conducir

**Traducción Miguel Quezada**

Cuando el Acto de Conductores Responsables y Seguros (AB 60) fué implementado el primero de Enero, las licencias de manejo de California se hicieron disponibles para todos los residentes de California sin importar su estado legal de inmigración. Sin Embargo, ¿sabía usted que antes de 1994 el estado legal de inmigración del solicitante de licencia de manejo no importaba?

Entre el periodo de 1994 y 1995, la gente que vivió y trabajo en California, pero fueron excluidos de manejar legalmente en el estado, pero simplemente no dejaron de manejar.

Los padres de familia todavía necesitaban llevar a sus hijos a la escuela. Los trabajadores todavía necesitaban ir al trabajo. La carga creada al excluirlos de una licencia de manejar simplemente creo

una nueva industria al confiscar sus automóviles y haber sido multados.

Por consiguiente, regresando a 1994 cuando las reglas permitían a residentes aplicar por una licencia de manejo sin importar el estado de inmigración, era sentido común. El cambio de ley termino una carga impuesta sobre ciudadanos y residentes de California que cumplían con la ley.

Aquí hay unas respuestas a preguntas frecuentemente solicitadas sobre la nueva ley:

Antes de ir al Departamento de Vehículos Motorizados (DMV), pague cualquier multa de tráfico pendiente y estudie para el examen de manejo. Hay suficiente información útil en la página de internet. <http://driveca.org/apply/>.

Sería mejor arreglar una cita con el DMV antes de ir para reducir el tiempo de espera.

Necesitaras que completar una forma de aplicación y pagar un pago de \$33.

Asegúrese tener los documentos que comprueban su identidad y residencia de California, como una identificación consular o pasaporte, una factura de utilidades, un contrato de renta, un registro médico, su declaración de impuestos, un registro de una institución financiera, o un registro escolar.

Usted puede usar documentos bajo el nombre de un cónyuge como prueba de residencia pero no otros en residencias compartidas. Si sus documentos se han vencido se deben renovar.

Deberá pasar un examen de vista. Usted tendrá tres oportunidades para pasar un examen escrito que cubre leyes de tráfico.

Posteriormente, necesitaras hacer una cita para el examen de manejar.

Deberá tener prueba de re-

sponsabilidad financiera y aseguransa para el auto. Usted tendrá tres oportunidades para pasar el examen de manejo. El sitio de internet del DMV describe las manobras de manejo que serán examinadas.

Su huella del dedo pulgar y foto será tomada para la licencia.

Deberá ser capaz de responder a instrucciones de manejo en ingles, incluyendo las que son dirigidas a las características de seguridad de vehiculo y su desempeño en maniobras de manejo.

Los evaluadores del DMV tienen experiencia administrando pruebas a solicitantes quienes tienen habilidad limitada en el ingles. Sin embargo, los solicitantes deben practicar para responder instrucciones en Ingles para pasar el examen.

La nueva ley permite las solicitudes para licencias no-comerciales ofrecidas por el

DMV, incluyendo la clase C (la mayoría de carros), Clase MI/M2 (motocicletas), Clase No-comercial A o B (automóvil de remolque, algunos RVs).

Las nuevas licencias son para conducir. Sin embargo, pueden ser utilizadas como identificación para los oficiales de policía.

Es contra la ley para negocios, propietarios, agencias gubernamentales, o actividad que reciba fondos del estado para discriminarlo basado en el tipo de licencia que usted tenga.

El poseer licencia de manejar no le da el derecho a votar.

Los documentos proporcionados al DMV para averiguar su identidad, nombre, residencia, y edad no son registros públicos y el DMV no tiene permitido revelar esta información, excepto cuando son requeridas por una agencia policial como parte de una investigación.

# Report: Authority Refusing to Place Holds on Immigrants for Feds More Than 225 Law Enforcement Agencies Nationwide Have Adopted Policies

By Wesley R. Eisiminger  
Journalism Guild Writer

Many county and city jails across the country are refusing to hold inmates for federal immigration authorities, a newspaper reports.

The local holds are designed to give immigration officials time to deport prisoners.

Currently more than 225 law enforcement agencies nationwide have adopted policies to completely ignore requests by Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) to hold inmates for an additional 48 hours after they are scheduled for release from jail, the *Los Angeles Times* reported Oct. 4.

ICE holds created a pipeline for deportation of thousands of people from the United States in the last decade, the newspaper said. "Now that enforcement tool is crumbling."

"In California, a state law

implemented in January — the Trust Act — stipulates that law enforcement agencies can only honor immigration holds if the inmate who is suspected of being in the country illegally has been charged with, or convicted of, a serious offense," the *Times* said.

**ICE holds created a pipeline for deportation of thousands of people from the United States**

In Bernalillo County, New Mexico, Commissioner Wayne A. Johnson said, "Not everyone crossing the border

is here just looking for a better life for their family. We don't know who else is coming across the border."

County official are fearful of exposing themselves to expensive litigation, and the Department of Homeland Security did not reimburse localities for housing the inmates during the extended stay, said Grace Philips, general counsel for the New Mexico Association of Counties.

In March 2014, the 3<sup>rd</sup> U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals in Pennsylvania ruled that "states and local law enforcement agencies had no obligation to comply with immigration hold requests because the requests did not amount to the probable cause required by the Constitution to keep someone in jail," the *Times* reported.

ICE spokeswoman Leticia Zamarripa said the agency

will work with local agencies "to enforce its priorities through the identification and removal of convicted criminals and other public threats."

Dear Editor,

I read with interest the C/O saving an inmate's life. What would have happened if the situation was reversed? Would the inmate be required under the inmate's code to let

him die? And if help were to be rendered, what would have happened to the inmate (by the other inmates)? I'm a subscriber, a contributor, and a retired emergency physician. I enjoy the paper.

—David S.

## LETTER TO THE EDITOR

### CORRECTIONS:

In January's Edition, Kara Urion's name was misspelled and her position is Program Director. Duane Holt's name was also misspelled in the SQUIRES story and Anouthinh Pangthong's name was mislabeled as David Chow in a sports story. We apologize for those mistakes.



# Addressing the Importance of Hygiene Drives

## Kid C.A.T. Speaks

By Emile DeWeaver  
Staff Writer

For the third time, Kid CAT members collected hygiene donations from San Quentin inmates for distribution to needy kids in San Francisco and Marin.

Their efforts are part of the bi-annual hygiene drive, a movement started by Kid CAT member Mike Nelson. The aim is to provide homeless children with essential hygiene products.

Men from the yard trickle in to the ARC Trailer to donate everything from shower shoes to shampoo. Kid CAT members thanked each man for his generosity.

The donations go into a Ziploc hygiene kit filled with 10 items: a toothbrush, toothpaste, deodorant, face towel and other essentials.

"It's all about giving back," said Philip Mendez, president of Kid CAT's Public Relations Department. "Some people write us off because we're inmates who've done horrible things, but I'm watching these guys come in from the yard to give their canteen (purchases) to kids, and I love it. Some of these guys make \$10 a month at their prison jobs. Some don't even have jobs; they're drawing birthday cards (to sell to other prisoners) to hustle up some toothpaste."

"It's not just about doing my time," said Nelson, the Hygiene Drive coordinator. "I have work to do. I'm accountable for hurting the community when I was a kid. I think everyone here making kits, ev-

eryone donating, we all want to do what we can to restore the community."

Nelson said he learned his sense of responsibility from his grandmother without realizing he was learning from her. When Amber alerts were first airing on TV, Nelson's grandmother spearheaded a movement to fingerprint the children in Canyon Lake. According to Nelson, the collected fingerprints were stored in a database to help track missing children.

***"I'm accountable  
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the community"***

Dolan Beard has been a Kid CAT volunteer for more than three years. Beard will load his truck with hygiene kits after the collection and drive them to the agencies that will distribute the kits: Larkin Street, Compass Family Services, Homeless Alliance and a Marin County agency that is yet to be determined.

"The goal is to collect enough products to have a



Photo by Sam Hearnes

Donation of collected cosmetics from inmates in S.Q. for the Hygiene Drive

one-for-one exchange, so the kids can come back every week to get more hygiene," Beard said.

One obstacle to establishing a one-for-one exchange, according to Hygiene Drive assistant coordinator Ke Lam, is finding agencies willing to store and distribute the product kits year-round. Beard, however, said the biggest problem is collecting enough products.

Beard collected more than 300 kits with Kid CAT last July, but the numbers drastically dropped for the December collection. He said Kid CAT hopes to improve collections this year.

On this collection day, the ARC trailer is filled with optimism for the future and men begin to talk about the moments that have inspired them since the first Hygiene Drive

in 2013. Here are some of the things supporters appreciate:

-- "For me, it's just the collaboration between us and our volunteers," said Mendez. "Seeing where the stuff goes, the impact on kids' lives. It's such a beautiful thing."

-- "When John Lam and Vinny started going cell to cell to collect donations," Nelson said, describing Kid CAT's early efforts to build support for the Hygiene Drive.

-- "The photo of all our products being assembled by the outside community," Lam said. "Volunteers picking up products and organizing. Guys on the yard being proud of what we're doing." Lam looks toward the door where an inmate lingers outside the doorway, rocking from foot to foot. The newcomer smiles, holds up a deodorant, and asks if he is in the right place to donate hy-

giene. He is.

-- "Seeing the faces of the youth last year, knowing they were going to get a hygiene bag," Beard said. "Seeing the staff at Outreach. The looks on their faces, knowing they were going to have product to hand out on Haight Street, the Tenderloin, Golden Gate Park. Seeing my truck overflowing with product - I had to tie a net over it all. Seeing these guys carrying product from the yard. One guy came in with enough items for a full kit. Another guy brought a bottle because that's all he had."

Lam said Kid CAT's long-term goal is for the hygiene drive to expand out of S.F. to other cities like Los Angeles.

Readers interested in more information about the hygiene drive should contact *Kid CAT Speaks* at the *San Quentin News*.

# Study Reveals: Youth Incarceration Declines

By Kris Himmelberger  
Contributing Writer

Incarceration of youth declined steeply after a two-decade surge, reports the National Council on Crime & Delinquency (NCCD).

The 2014 NCCD report cites data from the U.S. Justice Department, which reveals the rate of juvenile "confinement dropped 41 percent between 2001 and 2011."

By asking stakeholders in juvenile justice to describe the method by which they reduced juvenile confinement in their jurisdictions, the authors list:

- Increased local control that moves supervision responsibilities for some youth from the states to county agencies.
- Provide funding streams and incentives to pay for these shifts in responsibility.
- Make categories of crimes such as misdemeanors and status offenses ineligible for incarceration in state facilities.
- Require juvenile justice systems to employ the best practices identified by research.
- Require placement of youth in the least restrictive environments.

However, the stakeholders believed that further improvement could be made. Some of their recommendations:

- Increasing federal funding for juvenile justice. The report's authors note, "Public opinion research has shown support for paying more in taxes for rehabilitative services for young people, especially when compared to youth incarceration."
- Develop legislation that reallocates funds from closed facilities to youth in the community.
- Support community-based organizations with innovation funds.
- Use performance measures that fit the context of community-based organizations.
- Include community-based organizations, families and youth.

According to the report, "when young people are incarcerated, they lose critical connections to their families, becoming more likely to commit new crimes and less likely to reconnect to school and work."

- Review and reduce the number of out-of-home placements.
- "Juvenile departments should try to support and strengthen

relationships between youth and their families, making out-of-home placement the exception rather than the rule...

Alternatives include placement with extended family members that can help transition youth back to their primary families as soon as possible," notes the report.

- Build a local placement continuum. The authors believe "systems should fund networks of local nonprofit placements for youth in their home communities; make a reduction in state placements a benchmark for success in provider contracts; target the treatment needs of youth who might otherwise be locked up, and use halfway houses, treatment centers and local facilities as alternatives to placements far from home."
- Reduce lengths of stay at various points in the system. Stakeholders are beginning to recognize that mandatory minimum sentences that "keep young people incarcerated longer than necessary" are not effective. One Northeastern stakeholder demands that his state "ask the question every day, why is this kid still there and what the hell are we doing about it?"

- Develop stronger partnerships with families and service providers.

- Reduce supervision for youth who do not need it. "Using risk assessments, departments can identify those youth who are at high, moderate and low risk of committing new offenses ... Lowest-risk youth can be diverted from the system entirely or placed on case loads that require very few contact hours with probation officers."

- Reduce revocations that lead to re-incarceration by using response grids. "When a violation has occurred only once and is minor, supervision staff might have the youth write a letter of apology rather than return to court for a formal punishment."

- Work and engage with families and communities in a restorative manner. The report states, "Systems and government should create paid advocate positions to bridge the gap between marginalized families and the juvenile justice system."

- Build capacity for reform and fund communities most impacted. This would help eliminate the racial and ethnic disparities that the author reports "have grown considerably." Out-

of-home placements of youth of color grew from 10 percent of dispositions to 14 percent while the rate of White youth fell from 2.6 percent to 1.1 percent.

White youth also benefited when it came to probation. The rate fell from 24.1 percent to 11 percent. When it came to secure facilities, that rate grew to 3 percent whereas youth of color sentenced to probation remained the same, and sentencing to secure facilities doubled to 22.4 percent.

When it came to gender differences, girls fared better than boys. The number of girls held in placement remained the same, and those sentenced to secure confinement grew from 1.9 percent to 4.5 percent, while the percentage of boys in confinement grew from 15.7 percent to 23.7 percent.

California has made an enormous stride in juvenile justice. A decade ago it housed 10,000 youth. Today it houses 800.

"This is not the time for supporters of juvenile justice reform to become complacent. Rather, it is time to learn from the most promising jurisdictions and deepen reforms," concluded the authors.

# Connecting Through Unusual Circumstances

*‘One had murdered the other’s uncle, while the nephew vowed one day to avenge his uncle’s death’*

By **Juan Haines**  
Managing Editor

For years, a Christian and a Muslim prisoner lived in the same housing unit, mentoring their fellow convicts. One was a church elder, the other a military veteran and self-help facilitator. Each knew little of the other’s past — one had murdered the other’s uncle, while the nephew vowed one day to avenge his uncle’s death.

When the two eventually met to reconcile the past, more than 100 inmates stood in a prison chapel, clapping hands to the rhythm of a tambourine and singing. “I got a feeling that everything is going to be all right.”

“Twenty years ago, I committed a crime. I murdered Mr. Brian Thompson,” Derrick Holloway told the audience. His sermon centered on the importance of forgiveness.

Holloway compared un-forgiveness to dropping an anchor and saying, “This is where I’m going to be. Like with brothers and sisters, the justice system, cellies, friends, different faiths. The Lord is challenging us to pick up that anchor, because a storm is coming.”

Holloway invited the nephew of the person he murdered to the stage.

Abdul Raheem Thompson-Bonilla walked up to Holloway, embraced him and with tears in his eyes said, “I want him to share some words; it’s a funny thing, how men have thoughts and God steps in. God has showed favor on me and opened my heart.”

The audience stood up and gave applause.

Thompson-Bonilla told the audience what 18 years of unforgiving and vengeance could do to a person.

“The longer I held it to myself, the angrier I got. But, God had another plan. I understood that the killing of my brothers stops with me,” he said. “I could not deny the favor of forgiveness that God has given me. So, when it came to my brother, Holloway, I looked him in the eye, and told

him that I forgive him.”

Holloway went on to talk about the meaning of true forgiveness.

“We need to forgive each other without condition,” he said. “To be long-suffering with your brother. If you want forgiveness, you’ve got to give it. When you sit in that board room, you want forgiveness. We in prison have a way of pushing away some inmates who committed a certain kind of crime, but we have to forgive everyone. In order to

have forgiveness, there must be dialogue. If there’s going to be real forgiveness, there must be some type of dialogue. I think that Victims Offender Education Group has it right, when they make people write a forgiveness letter. You have to have a conversation.”

Holloway warned of the dangers of not forgiving what a person is not willing to do, or saying, “I’m not going to forgive.”

“I believe that many of us, right now, are seeing the faces of

those who we are saying, ‘I will not forgive.’ Like the one who told on me, I would not forgive. My brother, I would not forgive. My pastor, I would not forgive. My enemy, I would not forgive. My wife, I would not forgive. This is not a Christian thing, this is not a religious thing,” Holloway said. “It’s a human thing. We all need to forgive in order to defeat our enemy.”

He said that the enemy keeps the door of un-forgiveness open. “There’s a lot of us who have these places of un-forgiveness.”

“The foundation of what Christ did was forgiveness. So, if the enemy knows he can shake your foundation of forgiveness, then he has you,” Holloway warned. “Father forgive them, because they know not what they do,” Holloway read from the Bible.

Holloway invited everyone in the church to come forward if they had issues of un-forgiveness that they’d like to address.

More than half the church went forward as a pastor prayed that they’d find forgiveness in their lives.

“Dear Lord, I give you all the hurt that I’ve done to others. Today I give it all to you,” the pastor said. “Every bit of it. Today, you break the pain and anguish. So that the men here can walk out of here free. No one will leave this place the same.”

Thompson-Bonilla thanked everyone who facilitated the meeting, including other veterans and all his Muslim brothers, who he said didn’t know the particulars of why they were in church that day.



Photo by Sam Hearn

Abdul Raheem Thompson-Bonilla and Derrick Holloway standing in between the CHSB and the Adjustment Center

## Searching for Valley Fever Fungus Costs the State \$5.4 Million

*Continued from Page 1*

2011: Pleasant Valley State Prison (PVSP) and Avenal State Prison (ASP).

Inmates who declined to volunteer for screening “are considered eligible for transfer to the two prisons unless they are in high-risk groups,” reported *The Associated Press*.

According to a 2013 federal court order, those who are African American, Filipino, those with diabetes and those with a weakened immune system, are at a higher risk for developing complications from valley fever.

Individuals over the age of 65 have a medical restriction from being housed at ASP and PVSP.

Joyce Hayhoe, a spokeswoman for the federal court-appointed receiver who controls prison medical care, said about 90,000 of the more than 134,000 state inmates would be tested, according to the *AP* report.

Experts from the federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention projected that about 13 percent of the tested inmates will be found to be immune, or about 11,700 inmates, the *AP* reported. The capacity of PVSP and ASP is about 8,200 inmates.

### SAN QUENTIN STATE PRISON NORTH BLOCK TESTING:

About a week prior to the

testing, San Quentin’s closed-circuit television system aired an informational video that explained the screening process. However, the full message did not air because the video cut off before its completion.

The video format Sacramento sent didn’t work with the San Quentin equipment, TV Specialist Larry Schneider said in an interview. He said after re-formatting the video to fit San Quentin equipment specifications, the last part of it was cut off.

Prison administrators also passed out a pamphlet to inmates that explained the test was voluntary. If someone declined the test and did not have a current restriction, they would continue to be eligible for transfer to Pleasant Valley or Avenal.

More than 75 percent of the 500 inmates in North Block identified by prison administrators for screening did not volunteer to take the test.

### CELL FEEDING:

January 12 began in North Block with an announcement at about 6:30 a.m. that inmates with diabetes were to be let out of their cells so they could receive their medication.

Normally, after inmates receive their medication, they make their way to the chow

hall for breakfast. However, on screening day the diabetics were order back to their cells.

About five or six inmates assisted North Block correctional officers in passing out bagged breakfasts and lunches to each cell. Inmates who receive special dietary meals, such as religious diets, had their food delivered to their cells also.

The standard breakfast consisted of cocoa-pop cold cereal, coffee-cake, two boiled eggs, milk, apple juice and instant coffee. The lunch consisted of peanut butter and jelly, four slices of bread, a twin pack of cookies, corn nuts and an instant fruit drink.

### TESTING:

The tests for valley fever began on the first tier at about 11 a.m.

Everyone was ordered to get out of their cells, walk around to the back of North Block and line up according to assigned cell.

Next, people who were on the list for screening were called to a table where a staff member asked whether they wanted to take the test. He then checked off the answer and directed the inmate to another area with about six other staff members.

When the inmates reached the other area, they were asked again if they were going to take the test. When an inmate said

“no” he was told, “You will have to sign this refusal slip.”

One inmate said, “I am not refusing to take your test or experiment or whatever this is. I am not *volunteering* to take this test. You can check off whatever you want.” The staff member then told the inmate he had to sign the paper. The inmate repeated he was not volunteering to sign anything. The staff member told the inmate, “Just go.”

Other inmates who did not volunteer for the test said they did not sign the refusal slip because staff members would not give them a copy of what they were signing, or they could not understand what the content of the refusal slip was.

Testing in North Block ended at about 1:15 p.m.

### WHO VOLUNTEERED?

Inmates who volunteered for testing were taken to a location outside of North Block to receive an injection of the screening solution.

Those who did not volunteer for testing were ordered back to their cells.

Here are the numbers by race of inmates (from second tier to the highest fifth tier) who went to the injection location outside of North Block:

- White: 70
- Black: 9

- Hispanic: 14
- Other: 12
- Total: 105
- Average per tier: 26.25
- Estimated North Block Total: 131

One inmate who took the test said he asked the staff member who was administering the screening test to him, “What is in this?” The person told him what it was, but the inmate said he couldn’t understand the words. The inmate said he then asked the staff member if he could take one of the empty boxes. The staff member said, “No.” Therefore, the inmate said he wrote down what was on the box — *Immitis spherule-derived*.

### THE RESULTS:

On Jan. 14, North Block was placed on lockdown so that readings could be taken from the inmates who participated in the test.

The breakfast schedule was essentially the same as Jan. 12.

After breakfast, each person was called to the first desk by name and cell so officials could take their reading.

Here is the number of inmates called to the desk:

- First tier: 30
- Second tier: 25
- Third tier: 13
- Fourth tier: 20
- Fifth tier: 24
- Total inmates called: 112.



# Leader of *Just Came to Play* Gives Last Concert Before Heading Out the Gate

By Juan Haines  
Managing Editor

An audience of nearly 100 prisoners filled San Quentin's Protestant chapel on Jan. 9 for what was inmate Reggie Austin's last concert before he paroled on Feb 10. Austin is bandleader of the jazz band, *Just Came to Play*. A large cloth painting of a trumpeter playing in a nightclub was the backdrop for the stage. "I thought the show was great. I've known Reggie since the '80s," said prisoner George Greenwood. "He's always put on a good show and brings out the best in his players. He always brings my spirits up. It was a great way to bring in 2015." The multi-ethnic audience was not unusual for a San Quentin event. Moreover, the musicians for *Just Came to Play* include black, Hispanic and white players. Inmates sat leaning forward with their arms on the backs of

the pews, heads bobbing to energetic jazz standards performed by the band such as "Stolen Moments" and a post-bop piece called "Depression." "Reggie gave us the sheet music just days before the event," said drummer Dwight Krizman. "Then as we were playing, he conducted us on the fly. That just shows that he trusts us as players and it keeps us on our toes as musicians." "The members of the Jazz band work together cohesively, bring out the best in each other as artists and musicians," said Raphael Casale, an office technician in the warden's office who sponsors San Quentin's inmate band program. "Through music one can learn patience perseverance, humility and experience the joy of contributing in a positive way to one's community." At one point Austin asked guitar player Greg Dixon and bass player Lee Jaspar to switch instruments to perform "Yellow



Photo by Sam Hearnes

Band members Lee Jaspar on the guitar and Dwight Krizman playing the drums



Photo by Sam Hearnes

Allen "Squirrel" Ware

Jacket." The pace picked up and became even livelier, with Jaspar and Dixon winging it on solos.

It sounded as though the instruments were talking to each other. Austin called for the band to play "the soft easy sounds of (John) Coltrane." While the melody played, some inmates were heard quietly agreeing that jazz brought a relaxing mood in the chapel. The next tune had an extra swing to its funky beat, seemingly a collaboration of "Take the A Train" and "Watermelon Man." The next piece, "How Insensitive," a Latin love song, slowed the pace and brought an immediate shout "yeah!" from someone in the crowd. It featured Dixon scatting over smooth guitar playing, which brought a round of applause. This song highlighted the great rhythm of conga player Jimmy Rojas, bringing two rounds of applause and a standing ovation.

The pace continued with a hard sounding piece, featuring Larry "Popeye" Fasion's spunky trumpet and a raw flaunting bass that again brought the crowd to its feet. The next tune, a cha-cha, featured percussionist Jimmy Rojas driving a steady, pulsing beat. The show began right after the evening meal, roughly 6 p.m., and lasted until it was time for the inmates to return to their housing units at 8:30 p.m. The players were: keyboard, Reginald Austin; bass, Lee Jaspar; guitar, Greg Dixon; congas/percussions, Jimmy Rojas; trumpet, Larry "Popeye" Fasion; keyboard, Allen "Squirrel" Ware; and drums; Dwight Krizman. "I'm very grateful for Austin's knowledge and advice on running a successful music program," Casale said. "I have enjoyed his talent, musicianship and energy."



Photo by Sam Hearnes

Top: Lee Jaspar, Larry "Popeye" Fasion, Jimmy Rojas, Greg "Dee" Dixon and Dwight Krizman. Bottom: Allen "Squirrel" Ware and Reggie Austin

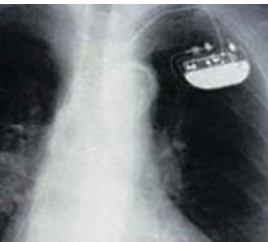




Elijah McCoy (1843-1929) invented the oil-dripping cup for trains. His invention was copied by other inventors, but the copies were inferior causing customers to ask for the real McCoy. This is where the expression “the real McCoy” originates from.



Jan Ernst Metzger (1852-1889) invented a machine that increased the speed of shoemaking by 900 percent.



Otis Boykin (1920-1982) is the inventor of the pacemaker and electronic guidance devices used in missiles.



George Washington Carver (1860-1943) invented peanut butter and many other products derived from plants.



Granville T. Woods (1856-1910) invented a communication system linking trains with stations. He dropped out of school at age ten.

By Aly Tamboura  
Contributing Writer

They came from Africa to America in chains, have struggled for freedom and equality along the way and made significant contributions to the American way of life while stacking up an array of impressive “firsts.”

Those “firsts” for black Americans are a key element to the February celebration – yes,

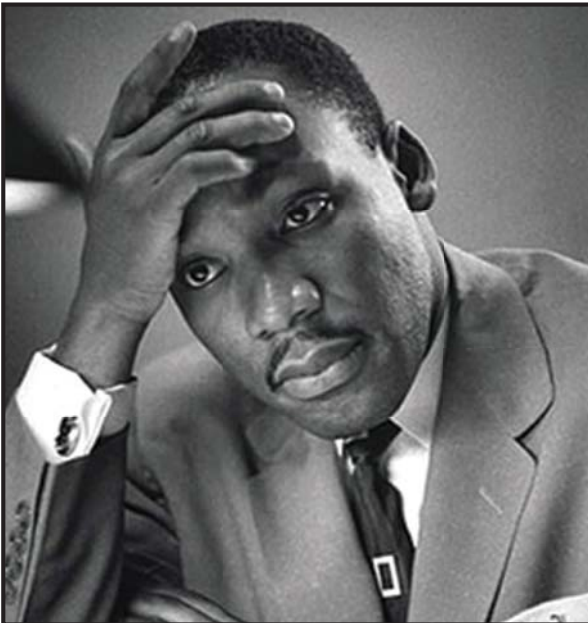


Sarah E. Goode

celebration – of Black History Month.

It began with the very first footsteps African slaves made off a Dutch ship at Point Comfort in Hampton, Va., in 1619, continuing on to the first footsteps of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.’s historic crossing of the Edmund Pettus Bridge in Selma, Ala.

Today, they include the first footsteps of the protesters in Ferguson, Mo., fed up with the alarming instances of unarmed black men being fatally gunned



Martin Luther King Jr.



Rosa

ginalization.

Black History Month is a time reserved to celebrate and acknowledge black heroes like Dr. King, Malcolm X, Rosa Parks and so many others. It is also time that allows casting aside the obscuring shadows of history to recognize lesser-known black pioneers and ground-breakers and their compelling “firsts” in American history. Many have gone unrecognized for far too long in America’s history books.

An estimated 9.4 to 12 million African slaves arrived in the new world. About 3 percent (300,000) went to American colonies, where they contrib-

tradesman named Crispus Attucks. Following the massacre, approximately 5,000 blacks, both free and slave, fought in the ensuing American Revolutionary War.

Later in history, a former slave, George Washington Carver, developed many food products from peanuts, sweet potatoes and soybeans. His scientific discoveries include a rubber substitute, adhesives, dyes, pigments and many other innovative products. Carver was the first black man to promote his discoveries to poor farmers as alternative crops to cotton. His goal was to liberate them from the slave crop and improve their lives by developing both new sources of food and new income from different crops.

Carver endeavored under the shadow of the 1857 United States Supreme Court’s Dred Scott decision, which defined blacks as non-citizens and held they could never be citizens. This dubious edict stayed in effect through the Civil War and until the 14th Amendment superseded it in 1868.

With new but limited legal and constitutional protection, a blossoming of black cultural achievement soon followed. In 1870, Hiram Revels became the first African-American senator in the United States Congress.

Revels represented the southern state of Mississippi during the period of post-Civil War Reconstruction. He tried to bring improvements to black communities, openly stating that he “... wanted to assist (black men) in acquiring property and in becoming intelligent, enlightened citizens...”

His ambitions, along with black political progress, were soon shattered by Jim Crow laws — local ordinances and state laws enacted and enforced between 1876 and 1965, mandating segregation and promoting the notion that blacks were infe-

rior to whites. Under Jim Crow laws, blacks faced years of violence and intimidation resulting in systemic disadvantages in education, social status and economic opportunities that still plague black communities today.

Even under the yoke of the Jim Crow restrictions, blacks continued their contributions to America. While institutional and individual violence against blacks intensified, so did black ingenuity and accomplishment, from patents to politics and patriots.

In 1821, Thomas L. Jennings became the first African-American patent holder for a dry cleaning process. Sarah E. Goode followed in 1885 with a



Sadie Tanner Mossell Alexander

down by law enforcement.

Black American “firsts” have often been overshadowed by the horrors of American racism and the history of brutal oppression, disenfranchisement and mar-

uted in their own way to the building of America.

Beginning back when the colonies were under British rule, the first casualty of the Boston Massacre was a free black



Eartha Kitt in a unda  
in front of San Que



# Black History Month

## Known Black Heroes



Parks



Thurgood Marshall

The Brown v. Board of Education ruling was a pivotal moment in American race relations. Though blacks' struggle for Civil Rights began decades earlier, it hurled the nation into the better-known era of Civil Rights battles, such as the voting rights struggles of the 1950s and '60s.

The era also gave rise to the trailblazers of the 1960s such as Patricia Harris, who became



Patricia Harris

the first black female ambassador, named to the Luxembourg post in 1965.

Other lesser known black Americans have made significant contributions to American society, ranging from the inventions of everyday household devices to major scientific discoveries in fields, including physics, biology, mathematics, medical, nuclear and space sciences.

Blacks have also shaped American culture through their contributions in art, music,



Lewis Latimer (1848-1928) is credited with inventing the carbon filament in light bulbs, while working in the laboratories of both Thomas Edison and Alexander Graham Bell.



Madam C. J. Walker (1867-1919) invented a hair growing lotion and became the first African-American millionaire.



Garrett Morgan (1877-1963) is the inventor of the gas mask and the first traffic signal.



Dr. Patricia E. Bath (1949-) was nominated to the National Inventors Hall of Fame for inventing a method of eye surgery that has helped blind people regain their sight.



Lonnie G. Johnson (1949-) is the inventor of the Supersoaker watergun.

patent for a bed that folded into a cabinet.

Educational barriers were broken by blacks such as:

--Edward A. Bouchet, who in 1863 became the first black man to receive a doctor of philosophy degree from Yale University

--Daniel Hale Williams, a pioneer in open heart surgery

--In 1921 three women, Sadie Tanner Mossell, Georgia Simpson and Eva Beatrice Dykes became the first black women to earn Ph.Ds.

--Charles Hamilton Houston became the first black editor of the Harvard Law Review. Barack Obama would later become the Harvard Law Review's first black president, as well as

the first African-American to become the President of the United States.

Houston later founded a law school that would educate the most famous black jurist, Thurgood Marshall, who tirelessly fought to undermine the Jim Crow system in the courts and went on to be the first black United States Supreme Court justice.

Black achievements of the time angered many in the segregated South, which answered with a resurgence of the Ku Klux Klan. Between 1890 and 1940, millions of black Americans were terrorized under the guise of racial suppression. Extra-judicial mob violence was responsible for the murder of at least 5,000 black men, women and children, according to newspaper records kept at the Tuskegee Institute. Indeed, all of these murder victims should be included in the history of black heroes.

As blacks were being murdered in America, black lawyers such as Hamilton and Marshall were the first black men to fight for civil rights and for an end to lynching in the American court system, filing ground-breaking lawsuits.

As the legal cases were gaining traction, black men fought in two world wars. Some 350,000 blacks served on the Western Front during World War I. Corporal Freddie Stowers of the 371st Infantry Regiment, the only black soldier honored by the United States for his actions in World War I, was posthumously awarded the Medal of Honor. Eugene Jacques Bullard, served in the French Flying Corps and received France's highest award, the Legion of Honor.

During World War II more than 1.5 million blacks wore the American uniform in segregated units, such as the celebrated Tuskegee Airmen and the U.S.

761st Tank Battalion. More than 700 black soldiers paid the ultimate sacrifice, surrendering their lives to liberate Europe. During the war, Benjamin O. Davis became the first black general, serving from 1940 to 1948.

Partly based on the valor of black soldiers during World War II, President Harry S. Truman signed Executive Order 9981, ending discrimination in the armed forces, leading to the first desegregated military units in the early 1950s.

In 1954, James Meredith became the first black student at the University of Mississippi after the Supreme Court handed



Eva Beatrice Dykes

down Brown v. Board of Education of Topeka. The landmark decision was the result of consolidating the lawsuits engineered by Marshall and others, years earlier.

food and athletics.

Black History Month can be a time for everyone to ponder what the United States would be like without the contributions of blacks.



Photo courtesy of San Quentin Archives

ated picture standing  
entin's North Block



# Kathleen Jackson Promotes *Bind the Testimony*, The Work of 15 Inmates in Her Writing Class

By Joan Lisetor  
Adviser to the San Quentin News

More than 100 people crowded into Book Passage in Corte Madera on Jan. 24 to hear Kathleen Jackson and to celebrate the book produced by the men in her Christian Creative Writing Class at San Quentin Prison. The book, *Bind the Testimony*, is the work of 15 inmates who attend the weekly class she has taught at the prison for two years. Each story in the book is a testament to how each man came to Christ.

**“Let me explain lifers. They are talented people who want to give back, people who have turned their lives around”**

Jackson, a retired English teacher, volunteers at San Quentin as a facilitator, sponsor and mentor for several groups, including House of Healing, CGA (Criminal and Gang Members Anonymous), VOG (Victim Offender Education Group) and TRUST (Teaching Responsibility Utilizing Sociological Training.) She is a member of the Garden Chapel Drama Team and the Citizens Advisory Committee to the Warden.

She told of her own conversion to Christianity, prompted by the men in the basic English class she was then teaching at San Quentin. They convinced her to initiate the Christian Writing class, where they would write poetry and essays – but no sermons.

Jackson asked people in the audience to give one word



Kathleen Jackson speaking to the crowd about the anthology

File Photo

that to them describes a lifer. Among the more than 30 words shouted from the audience: criminal, tough, endurance, lost, guilty, scary, abused, tragic, Karma, teachers, gentle, misunderstood, redemption, friendly, trapped, disabled, lonely, misguided, isolated, tattooed, bored, sad and human. Then came a voice from the back of the room. “Paroled,” said Troy Williams, a former lifer who recently paroled from San Quentin after 18 years.

Jackson invited Williams to the speaker’s podium. As he stood next to her she said, “Let me explain lifers. They are talented people who want to give back, people who have turned their lives around.” Williams said he basically agreed with the shouted list of words, then spoke of his own turnaround and his appreciation for the many programs available to inmates at the prison.

Jackson read an excerpt from the book, *Please God Abandon Me*, noting it was difficult to select just one of them. Next she told a story of Douglas Manns, a former student in the Christian Creative Writing class. She noted his unselfishness because he requested a transfer to Old Folsom Prison to be closer to his ailing mother, knowing his imprisonment would be more difficult than it had been at San Quentin, which because of its large roster of programs and volunteers is considered the “best” of California’s 35 state prisons.

The presentation ended with a video shot at San Quentin, showing men in her class reading excerpts from their testimonies. Following the presentation, Jackson signed copies of *Bind the Testimony*. As people waited in line, most helped themselves to copies of the current issue of the *San Quentin News*, which were stacked on a table.



File Photo

File Photo

The crowd listening as the event took place

Troy Williams speaking about Kathleen’s hard work



# Remembering Dr. King, Ferguson And Moving Forward (Part 2)

By Watani Stiner  
Staff Writer

Here are the powerful words of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.:

"I would be the first to say that I am still committed to militant, powerful, massive, non-violence as the most potent weapon in grappling with the problem from a direct action point of view. I'm absolutely convinced that a riot merely intensifies the fears of the white community while relieving the guilt. And I feel that we must always work with an effective, powerful weapon and method that brings about tangible results. But it is not enough for me to stand before you tonight and condemn riots. It would be morally irresponsible for me to do that without, at the same time, condemning the contingent, intolerable conditions that exist in our society. These conditions are the things that cause individuals to feel that they have no other alternative than to engage in violent rebellions to get attention. And I must say tonight that a riot is the language of the unheard. And what is it America has failed to hear? It has failed to hear that the plight of the (African American) poor has worsened over the last twelve or fifteen years. It has failed to hear that the promises of freedom and justice have not been met. And it has failed to hear that large segments of white society are more concerned about tranquility and the status quo than about justice and humanity.

"I would like to talk ... about some of the things that must be done if we are to solve this problem. ... The first thing I would like to mention is that

## An 'OG's' Perspective

there must be a recognition on the part of everybody in this nation that America is still a racist country. Now however unpleasant that sounds, it is the truth. And we will never solve the problem of racism until there is a recognition of the fact that racism still stands at the center of so much of our nation and we must see racism for what it is. It is the myth of an inferior people.

"...Secondly, we've got to get rid of two or three myths that still pervade our nation. One is the myth of time. I'm sure you've heard this notion. It is the notion that only time can solve the problem of racial injustice. And I've heard it from many sincere people. They've said to (blacks) and/to his allies in the white community you should slow up, you're pushing things too fast, only time can solve the problem. And if you'll just be nice and patient and continue to pray, in a hundred or two hundred years the problem will work itself out. ...Somewhere we must come to see that human progress never rolls in on the wheels of inevitability, it comes through the tireless efforts and the persistent work of dedicated individuals who are willing to be co-workers with God and without this hard work time itself becomes an ally of the primitive forces of social stagnation. And so we must always help time and realize that the time is always right to do right.

"Now there is another myth and that is the notion that legislation can't solve the problem,

that you've got to change the heart, and naturally I believe in changing the heart. I happen to be a Baptist preacher and that puts me in the heart-changing business and Sunday after Sunday I'm preaching about conversion and the need for the new birth and re-generation ... But after saying that, let me point out the other side. It may be true that morality cannot be legislated, but behavior can be regulated. It may be true that the law cannot change the heart but it can restrain the heartless. It may be true that the law can't make a man love me, but it can restrain him from lynching me, and I think that's pretty important also.

"...I want to deal with another myth briefly which concerns me and I want to talk about it very honestly and that is over-reliance on the bootstrap philosophy. Now certainly it's very important for people to engage in self-help programs and do all they can to lift themselves by their own bootstraps. ...While America refused to do anything for the black man [after the Civil War], the nation, through an act of Congress, was giving away millions of acres of land in the west and the mid-west, which meant that it was willing to undergird its white peasants from Europe with an economic floor. Not only did they give the land, they built land grant colleges for them to learn how to farm. Not only that, it provided county agents to further their expertise in farming and went beyond

this and came to the point of providing low interest rates for these persons so that they could mechanize their farms, and today many of these persons are being paid millions of dollars a year in federal subsidies not to farm and these are so often the very people saying to the black man that he must lift himself by his own bootstraps. ...Senator Eastlands, incidentally, who says this all the time gets a hundred and twenty-five thousand dollars a year, not to farm on various area of his plantation down in Mississippi. And yet he feels that we must do everything for ourselves. Well, that appears to me to be a kind of socialism for the rich and rugged hard individualistic capitalism for the poor.

"... It has been my experience in these years that I've been in the struggle for justice, that things just don't happen until the issue is dramatized in a massive direct-action way. I never will forget when we came through Washington in 1964 ... I stopped by to see President Johnson. We ... got to the point of talking about voting rights. The President was concerned about voting, but he said Martin, I can't get this through in this session of Congress. ... if I push a voting rights bill now, I'll lose the support of seven congressmen that I sorely need for the particular things ... and we just can't get it. Well, I went on to say to the President that I felt that we had to do something about it and two weeks later we started a

movement in Selma, Alabama. We started dramatizing the issue of the denial of the right to vote and I submit to you that three months later as a result of that Selma movement, the same President who said to me that we could not get a voting rights bill in that session of Congress was on the television singing ... 'we shall overcome' and calling for the passage of a voting rights bill ... it just doesn't come about without pressure."

So, to summarize Martin Luther King, Jr.'s advice on how to move forward:

1. Always take the "high plane of dignity and discipline" — the ends and the means must be in unity; we must utilize "soul force" to accomplish our goals.
2. It is commonly recognized that when a wrong has been done, a vital aspect of healing is for the wrong to be clearly stated and understood by all involved. Acknowledge, as Barack Obama said, that this country is rooted in racism, condemn the intolerable conditions that exist in our society, educate yourself, speak up and acknowledge that the "promises of freedom and justice have not been met."
3. Recognize that time alone will not heal this wound: "The time is always right to do right."
4. Laws are not the ultimate solution, but good laws help and are worth working toward.
5. Blaming black people for not getting their act together is not helpful. It is also disingenuous and dishonest about the resources available to others.
6. Keep the pressure on, keep speaking and staying involved in the work of healing in whatever way you can — don't give up, give out, and give in!

## Legislators Call for More Spending to Treat Mentally Ill Prisoners

By Salvador Solorio  
Journalism Guild Writer

Some Democrats in the California legislature say the prison system needs to spend more on treating mentally ill prisoners and increasing rehabilitation options, according to *The Associated Press*.

State Democrats are driving legislation for state corrections to spend more money on mental health services. Legislators seek to improve treatment and to increase rehabilitation options as a means to deal with

lawsuits over inadequate treatment and services.

Gov. Jerry Brown and county sheriffs want \$500 million in bond money to expand jails for inmates redirected from state prisons under the three-year-old Realignment law.

The governor's proposed budget "dedicates \$2.3 billion General Fund to health care services programs resulting in inmates having continued access to mental health, medical and dental care that is consistent with the standards and scope of services appropriate

within a custodial environment."

The Democrats' efforts for flexibility in spending is supported by reform groups but is being criticized by California State Sheriff's Association, Republican lawmakers and State Association of Counties.

Sheriffs' lobbyist Aaron Maguire says, "Counties have a huge problem with jails that were constructed decades ago."

Senate Democrats are also seeking \$175 million for programs intended to help mentally ill offenders. Among the

proposals is \$12 million to train police to spot warning signs of mental illness. Elliot Rodger's killing spree at U.C. Santa Barbara after being interviewed by sheriff's deputies demonstrated the need for police training in identifying mentally ill offenders.

Maguire supported Senate Democrat's proposals for officer training and grants to counties for substance abuse treatment and other programs to help mentally ill offenders.

Recommendations by the Assembly Select Committee on

Justice Reinvestment included spending more on rehabilitation, money earmarked for veterans and people with mental illness. Other programs would focus on treating instead of imprisoning drug addicts and youth offenders.

State Senator Jim Beall commented, "It's very clear that we've criminalized the mental health system over the last several decades ... We need to have a system that provides mental health treatment not as a criminal act, but as a public health issue."

## Study: Children of Incarcerated Parents Show Signs of Mental Health Problems

By Micheal Cooke  
Journalism Guild Writer

Children of incarcerated parents exhibit mental health and behavior problems, a university study concludes.

"These kids are saddled with disadvantages," said Kristin Turney, study author and assistant professor of sociology at the University of California at Irvine. "They're not only dealing with parental incarceration, but also mental health issues. It might make finding a job more difficult, or they may be forced to grow up faster than peers."

The study was presented at the 109<sup>th</sup> annual meeting of the American Sociological Association. It was published in the September *Journal of Health and Social Behavior*.

Having a parent in prison is "associated with children's behavior problems and conditions such as attention deficit hyperactivity disorder, learning disabilities, speech or language problems and developmental delays,"

Printed by the American Sociological Review and reported in USA Today on Aug. 25, the review described how the emo-

tional and physical trauma of being in prison not only impacts the incarcerated, but also those who are connected to them.

The study paints a complex picture that suggests the consequences of incarceration can socialize men to respond to conflict rapidly and with extreme violence. It also can dramatically increase the risk of separation and divorce in marital or intimate relationships and causes severe depression and mental health problems for women left behind by a romantic partner.

Children of incarcerated fathers likely experience less fa-

vorable parenting overall. Social selective processes, such as race and social class, are predictive of incarceration rather than a causal effect, with minority and poorly educated men more likely than others to experience confinement, the study reports.

However, Glen Elliott, a medical director and chief psychiatrist at the Children's Health Council, disagreed with the conclusions. He stated that diseases such as ADHD are generally inherited behavioral conditions. "You can't assume that these are causal relationships," Elliott said.

Susan Brown, a professor of sociology at Bowling Green State University, noted the study gave "compelling evidence." Brown said, "I think that it raises a number of important issues."

The study concluded incarceration represents a substantial barrier to involvement in parenting after release, and family member contact is a vital deterrent to recidivism. It said increased visiting opportunities, and reduced barriers, such as access to affordable transportation to prisons, may benefit parents and their family members.

# ‘Smart on Crime’ Focuses On Saving Tax Payers’ Dollars

By James R. Abernathy Jr.  
Journalism Guild Writer

A new “smart on crime” approach in California is aimed at deterring repeated criminal behavior while creating significant savings in taxpayers’ dollars.

“Such an approach will not only hold offenders accountable for their actions, it will make our communities safer by taking steps to ensure that they don’t commit new crimes,” California Attorney General Kamala D. Harris wrote in an opinion piece published June 5 by the *Huffington Post*.

She said she believes “the way our system deals with low-level, non-violent and non-serious offenders wastes resources needed to fight more serious crime.”

Harris said she formed the Division of Recidivism Reduction and Re-entry (DR3) in the California Department of Justice to support the “smart on crime” strategy.

DR3 has three primary goals: to identify effective initiatives and evidence-based best practices to reduce recidivism; to use innovative technology to measure those initiatives and assess outcomes; and to identify public and private funding sources for those initiatives.

In June, 2014, DR3’s first pilot program, Back on Track – LA, was launched in part-

nership with the Los Angeles County Sheriff’s Department and Probation Department along with various other public and private-sector entities.

Back on Track – LA is an offspring of the original San Francisco-based Back on Track initiative developed by Harris while serving as district attorney of San Francisco, in which offenders were held ac-

countable for their behavior and personal responsibility. In exchange, they participated in re-entry and life skills training and employment opportunities to reduce the chances of reverting to a life of crime upon their release.

Back on Track – LA is scheduled to be up and running this fall. It is a re-entry initiative targeting non-violent offend-

ers in the Los Angeles County jail system. Using evidence-based practices, the initiative will combine in-custody educational opportunities with employment services, life skills training and referrals to key services such as housing and health care.

In addition, participants will create personal responsibility plans. Furthermore, coaches will guide them and hold them accountable to benchmarks and expectations.

“We can no longer afford to ignore our incarceration problem — the financial and societal costs for victims and

taxpayers are too high ... Initiatives like Back on Track – LA are critical to stopping the revolving door between our jails and prisons and our communities,” said Harris.

California spends an estimated \$13 billion per year on criminal justice. The average cost to jail an offender for one year is \$43,000, whereas Back on Track costs taxpayers less than \$5,000 per person.

“Through this initiative, participants will make the transition from a former life of crime to being productive, contributing members to their communities and families.”

## Attorney General’s Office Argues Against The Release of Nonviolent Criminals

By David Eugene Archer Sr.  
Journalism Guild Writer

Lawyers for the California Attorney General’s Office have argued in court against the release of eligible nonviolent prisoners from California’s overcrowded prisons “because the state wanted to keep them as a labor force,” according to news reports.

Attorney General Kamala Harris said she was shocked when she read a news story in November about the filing.

“I will be very candid with you ... I was shocked, and I’m looking into it to see if the way it was characterized in the paper is actually how it occurred in court,” Harris told BuzzFeed News in an interview. “I was very troubled by what I read. I just need to find out what did we actually

say in court.”

A week earlier, the *Los Angeles Times* reported that attorneys in Harris’s office had argued that the state could not release the prisoners it had agreed to release. The federal judges hearing the case rejected the argument.

The *Times* stated the attorneys argued that, “if forced to release these inmates early, prisons would lose an important labor pool.” Those prisoners earn wages that range from 8 cents to 37 cents per hour.

The attorneys representing plaintiffs in the prison-overcrowding lawsuit scoffed at the state’s argument.

“They could hire public employees to perform tasks like garbage collection, garage work and recycling; if they deplete the fire crews in order to staff their

garage crews, that would be their own choice,” they responded in their filing.

“The record contains no evidence that defendants cannot implement the required parole process by that date, 11 months after they agreed to do so ‘promptly,’” the judges wrote.

In a Sept. 30 filing in the case, signed by Deputy Attorney General Patrick McKinney but under Harris’ name, the state argued, “Extending 2-for-1 credits to all minimum custody inmates at this time would severely impact fire camp participation – a dangerous outcome while California is in the middle of a difficult fire season and severe drought.”

Approximately 4,400 California prisoners help the state battle wild fires, at wages of about \$2 a day, *BuzzFeed* reported.

The U.S. Supreme Court ruled in 2011 that California’s prisons were so overcrowded that the conditions violated the Constitution’s prohibition on cruel and unusual punishment. California has since been under federal court supervision to reduce prison population.

In February, the state agreed to release nonviolent prisoners with two felonies who had served half of their sentences, *BuzzFeed* reported.

On Feb. 10, 2014, the federal three-judge court gave CDCR the order that minimum-custody inmates will be eligible to earn two-for-one good time credits to the extent such credits do not deplete participation in fire camps where inmates also earn two-for-one good time credits.

## Declining Recidivism Rate in California Thanks to Realignment

‘Recidivism is a fundamentally important issue if we are to be smart on crime’

Continued from Page 1

return parolees arrested for technical parole violations,” PPIC reported.

The report said it did not see huge changes in the arrest or conviction rates of released offenders, which offers evidence that “offender behavior has not changed substantially.”

PPIC reported the law, post-Realignment, makes it difficult to return some released inmates to state prison.

role populations have dropped dramatically.”

The report said that prior to Realignment many parole violators “would probably be in prison,” but they are “no longer behind bars.”

In contrast to these findings, PPIC found the number of offenders arrested multiple times increased by 7 percent. “These higher multiple arrest rates may reflect the substantial increase in the time released offenders

spend on the streets – a result of counties’ limited jail capacity.”

PPIC reported that the reform now increases the “street time” of former prisoners.

According to PPIC, the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation (CDCR) reported offender arrest and conviction rates “apparently declined in each month of the post-realignment period.”

“Prisoners released post-realignment are less likely to be

like the pre-reform ‘frequent flyers’ who cycled in and out of prison on parole revocations,” PPIC reported.

According to the report, California’s high return to custody, its recidivism rate, was due in large part to parole violations. “Realignment has all but ended the state’s practice of returning parolees to prison via the parole board.”

Attorney General Kamala Harris, in a recent notice to the

state’s sheriffs, police chiefs, probation departments, district attorneys and other stakeholders, stressed the need for the state to assess strategies to reduce recidivism. She outlined her proposed statewide definition of recidivism as an arrest resulting in a charge filed by a prosecutor within three years of an individual’s release from incarceration or placement on supervision for a previous criminal conviction.

“Universally defining recidivism is a fundamentally important issue if we are to be smart on crime,” Harris said.

The news release said Harris created a recidivism reduction pilot program in Los Angeles County called Back on Track LA. While working as San Francisco’s district attorney, Harris in 2005 started the reentry program, Back on Track, to reduce recidivism rates among low-level, non-violent drug offenders.

Among several of PPIC’s other findings:

The reduction of inmate rates of return to state custody within a year of offenders’ release declined slightly; and post-realignment conviction increased by 1.2 percent, most being higher felony conviction rates.

“These efforts are necessary to reducing recidivism and relieving pressures on state prisons and county jails – which will ultimately allow California to reach its federally mandated prison population threshold,” the report concluded.

“Recidivism is a fundamentally important issue if we are to be smart on crime”

It was reported by PPIC that “Realignment has, as intended, led to a considerable 33 percentage point drop in the proportion of released inmates who are returned to state prison. This demonstrates that realignment has made substantial progress in one of its main goals: reducing the use of prison as a sanction for parole violations and minor criminal offenses.”

According to PPIC, the law (AB 109) has “ceased the flow of released inmates back to prison. As a result, prison and state pa-



Kamala Harris addressing the media

Official Photo



BOOK REVIEW

# The Fantasy Life of An Uncertain Teenager

By Juan Haines  
Managing Editor

Take it from me, who as a child believed that I could walk through walls. You will enjoy the surreal and dreamlike nature of adolescence, self-identity and the need to be loved that *Flight* brings to its readers. Author Sherman Alexie has taken a moment in time and re-defined how to use it for storytelling by implanting readers in the life of a mixed-race teenager who doesn't know his father and whose mother has died. Zits' fantasy is obviously just that. There's no way that people travel to these alternative uni-

verses, these fictitious worlds that logically could not exist. Here's protagonist Zits' mindset when he enters his first fantasy world, discovering who he is and why he's on this planet: *I turn around to look at myself in the mirror. I expect to see me pretending to be Clint Eastwood. But instead, I am looking at a face that is not my own.* I had to digest what was happening in this story. I thought, "OK, this is a fantasy novel, maybe he's just dreaming or something." Many fantasy novels tend to begin like that — with an out-of-body experience. My first fantasy novel, *Lord Foul's Bane* by Stephen R. Don-

aldson (1977) created a world in which the protagonist endured an adventure, quest-like. When I finally caught on to what was happening, I was pleasantly surprised and thought creating a fantasy world is a great way to say things, to construct a commentary on sociological phenomenon or tell a story of self-discovery. But, in *Flight*, the protagonist, a teenager, is not only disadvantaged by age, he is in and out of foster care, has direct roots to a not-so-pretty part of American history and Zits has to deal with all the everyday facets of growing up and maturing in today's society.



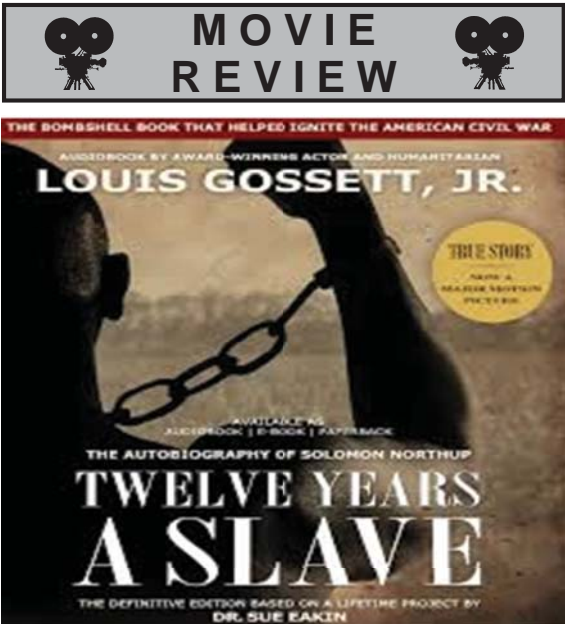
It's hard not to have empathy for Zits. But, as his character develops, his behavior is all over the place. It varies from offensively horrific to incredibly moral. This left me mixed about how to explain him. Trying to comprehend his first bad act, the killing of an innocent person, makes one think, is that forgivable? However, before answering the question, Alexie tricks us by quickly transferring the so-

called protagonist to another world at the very point of judgment. All is forgotten to the characters in the next world, but Zits is forced to drag his past actions into this new life, a life of kindness and compassion. Zits, now regretting what he has done, has an opportunity to do things differently in this world. So, when defending a young Indian boy from the massacre of the American cavalry, he says: *I remember I used to be like that little boy, holding tightly on to anybody who showed me even the tiniest bit of love. I haven't been like that in a long time.* Zits is giving what he wanted out of life. In and out of different worlds, Alexie takes the reader. In the end, readers learn the value of family, maturity and self-discovery. I'd recommend reading *Flight* for two reasons: one, its literary value in telling a story by use of fantasy and two, that its 18 chapters exhibit brevity at its best.

# The Harsh Reality of Life Under Slavery

By San Quentin Reviews

*12 Years a Slave* is the *Roots* of this generation. Being snatched vividly from a picturesque free-man's life, then forced into the back-lashing cruelty of slavery, is depicted so harshly that some prisoners wanted the film taken off the institutional channel. The Steve McQueen-directed film is based on Solomon Northup's memoir. It is a shocking reminder of the devaluation of human life then, and that traces remain today. In 1841 Blackman Northup (Chiwetel Ejiofor) is tricked out of freedom in Saratoga, N.Y., lured by money. He accompanies two white men (Scoot McNairy and Taran Killam) to Washington, D.C., to play violin in a circus. Once there, they drug him during a lavish meal. Northup awakes in chains and is sold into slavery, despite protesting that he isn't a slave. He is beaten Kunta Kinte-style until he accepts the name Platt and shuts up about his true identity.



While enslaved, he is bounced around Southern plantations until landing with cruel slave master Edwin Epps (Michael Fassbender), who is ironically a Christian. Epps subjects Nor-

thup to beatings every day if he fails to pick enough cotton. Epps repeatedly rapes Patsey (Lupita Nyong'o), who is also humiliated and attacked by Epps' jealous wife (Sarah Paulson). All the while Northup searches for a sympathetic ear to get word to his family and have them send proof of his true station. San Quentin reviewers Juan Meza, Emile DeWeaver and Rahsaan Thomas, plus special guest Jarvis "Lady J" Clark, sat down to discuss the film's parallels to incarceration, often described as modern-day slavery. Meza: In *12 Years a Slave*, they called us property, so they could beat a man because slaves aren't complete men. It's the same with us. We are called subhuman in the eyes of much of society. Therefore, it's OK to mistreat state property. They put two of us in a cell made for one. It's the same thing as slaves lying on the floor — no privacy. Thomas: God created all men equal, but they don't see us as

equal. They considered slaves 3/5 of a man. Today is the same; they mass incarcerate us. Clark: Slavery was worst for women. A transgender is treated the same as Patsey — subservient to all men, not just white men — third-class citizens. Meza: The difference between a slave and convicts is society believes inmates have given up their right to be human because they committed a crime. Thomas: It's crazy that he could prove he was a freeman but couldn't get anybody to listen. Many of us are like that. We are innocent, but it was OK to railroad us because we are all criminals in their eyes. No one listens to our claims. Meza: There's a fear to listening. We, as inmates, can suffer an injustice, we can talk to people, but they're afraid of repercussions, harassment and getting involved. DeWeaver: No one is going to risk standing up for someone they inherently feel is less than human.

# How Many Prisoners Express Their Love

By Angelo Falcone  
Journalism Guild Writer

The month of February is the shortest month of the year. It has exactly four weeks — 28 days (except 29 days in Leap Years, every four years). Yet, it has many celebrations and observances. The NFL Super Bowl was on Sunday, Feb. 1; Abraham Lincoln's birthday on Thursday, Feb.12; Valentine's Day on Saturday, Feb. 14; Lincoln and Washington's birthdays are jointly celebrated on President's Day, Monday, Feb. 16; Chinese New Year on Thursday, Feb. 19, and George Washington's birthday on Sunday, Feb. 22. Catholics celebrate the Presentation of the Lord on Monday Feb. 2, and Ash Wednesday on Feb. 18. According to the 2013 World Almanac, February celebrates Black History Month, American Heart Month, Library

Asked On The Line

Lovers Month, Youth Leadership Month and Return Shopping Carts to the Supermarket Month. There are two astrological signs in February: Aquarius, the Water Bearer (Jan. 20 to Feb. 18) and Pisces, the Fish (Feb.19 to March 20). During the second month of the year, Valentine's Day is when many people take some time off from their busy schedules to celebrate with someone they love. Many of the men in blue have hard and demanding jobs to earn the money to pay for cards, paper and stamps to express their love the old-fashioned way: snail mail. Many families also accept the 15-minute collect calls that are available to the men on the mainline. "Asked on the Line" con-

ducted brief interviews with 12 men on the mainline and asked, "Who is the person or people you love the most? If you only had 30 seconds to give them a message, what would you say?" Many of the men paused before answering. Some closed their eyes and thought for a minute. Rafael Cabral said the people he loves the most are his children, his siblings, and his parents. He would tell them, "Los quiero much y espero en Dios estar afuera con ustedes." (I love you all very much, and I hope to God to be out with all of you.) Jesus Flores said he would tell his daughter and granddaughter, "Con todo mi corazon, les deseo mucha salud y felicidad. Los quiero mucho." (With all my heart, I wish you much health and happiness. I love you

very much.) Philip Senegal would tell his family, "I love you, and I miss y'all" (blowing them a kiss.) Sadiq Siieiq said he would tell his family, "I love you, I miss you. I would be so happy just to see you. I would be so elated." Mouhannad Albukhari said if he could, he would hug his family and say, "I love you. It has been so long!" Walter Johnson would tell his family, "I love you. I am thinking about all of you. You are always on my mind. You are all on my wall of fame." Johnson said that he has a "wall of fame" in his cell with photos of his family. Antwan Brown would tell his family members, "Stay connected to God. Stay positive. Never allow your emotions to take you down the wrong path." Stephen Pascascio would send his son a message. "Son, I love you with all of my heart. I am

here to support you in whatever you need. I am so happy and grateful to the Lord for being your dad." Raymond Bodine said he would send a message to his wife and three daughters. "I've missed you all this time. I'd like to communicate and reconcile with you." Mesro Coles-El said the he would send a message to all of the children in his family. "Never give up hope and always do your best to make a better world." Lorenzo Romero said he would send a message to his son. "I would cry," said Romero. "I would ask him for forgiveness and for not being there for him during his hard times, during his short-comings and when he had problems. I am sorry, son." Joel Moore said he would send this message to his family: "Jesus loves us, and through Him, all things are possible."

**1. Sacramento** - A federal court overseer says a practice of withholding calls and visits at a new Death Row psychiatric unit can discourage inmates from seeking treatment, *The Associated Press* reports. The state opened the 39-bed unit at San Quentin State Prison in October 2014 in response to a judge’s ruling, citing the lack of proper mental health treatment for inmates. The California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation is re-examining its policy of automatically blocking family contacts for newly admitted patients.

**2. Cheyenne, Wyo.** - A state lawmaker is pushing a bill to allow the use of firing squads to execute condemned inmates even though a recent federal court decision leaves no one in the state on Death Row, *The Associated Press* reports. Sen. Bruce Burns, R-Sheridan, sponsored a similar firing squad bill that failed to pass in the legislative session last year. He maintains that Wyoming needs to make the firing squad option legal in case it cannot obtain the necessary drugs to perform lethal injections.

**3. Albuquerque, N.M.** - An inmate “buried alive” in solitary confinement for seven years is being denied showers, exercise and proper medical care, according to a federal lawsuit, *The Associated Press* reports. A lawyer for Justin Hinz says the 39-year-old prisoner is trapped in a windowless cell at the Penitentiary of New Mexico in Santa Fe and is deteriorating mentally because of the conditions. The New Mexico Department of Corrections strongly denies the accusations.

**4. Dallas** - Rickey Dale Wyatt spent 31 years incarcerated for



a rape he always maintained he did not commit. Wyatt was released from prison at the age of 56 in January 2012, *The Dallas Morning News* reports. But when he was released, he was not proclaimed innocent. Court papers with evidence clearing his name were filed on Christmas Eve.

**5. Montgomery, Ala.** - A state task force is weighing ideas to reduce prison overcrowding, such as sentencing changes, building new facilities to house inmates and increased resources for probation and parole *The Associated Press* reports. Alabama has the fourth-highest incarceration rate in the country. State prisons house about 25,000 inmates, nearly twice the number they were built to hold.

**6. Cleveland, Ohio** - Kwame Ajamu spent nearly 40 years of his life as a convicted felon for a murder that he, his brother and a friend did not commit, *The Associated Press* reports. A judge dismissed aggravated murder and robbery charges against Ajamu, who was convicted under the name Ronnie Bridgeman. Ajamu, Wiley Bridgeman and Ricky Jackson were sentenced to death in 1975 for the slaying of a businessman. All three were exonerated after prosecutors learned from a key witness who, as a 12-year-old boy, was coerced by police into identifying the three as the killers.

**7. Cleveland, Ohio** - Anthony Lemons, 40, was imprisoned for a 1994 murder that authori-

ties said was a dispute over drug money. Lemons continually denied involvement and was released on parole in December 2012. Prosecutors dropped the charges against him but stopped short of conceding his innocence. He was acquitted of the charges in December. Lemons said he will pursue state compensation for wrongful imprisonment and would use any such payment to start a program to help released inmates transition back to life outside prison, *The Associated Press* reports.

**8. Lyndon, Vt.** - A former church is being converted to a community center, with the help of some prison inmates at the Northeast Correctional Facility in St. Johnsbury, *The Associated*

*Press* reports. The church steeple leaned and the interior was dilapidated. A nonprofit group called the Upright Steeple Society tackled the project, raising \$350,000 to restore the building. The group plans to feature family and arts events at the center.

**9. Montpelier, Vt.** - Criminal justice reform advocates and family members of inmates urged state lawmakers to stop sending inmates out-of-state to for-profit prisons, *The Associated Press* reports. A new report highlights the costs and consequences of sending inmates to private prisons out of state. The report says an over-reliance on out-of-state private prisons cuts ties between prisoners and families, which strains the families emotionally, financially and, furthermore, increases recidivism. About 400 Vermont inmates are incarcerated out of state, mostly in Kentucky.

**10. New York** - Derrick Hamilton, 46, was sentenced to 25 years in prison in 1991 for the fatal shooting of Nathaniel Cash. Cash’s girlfriend testified against Hamilton. However, Hamilton always declared his innocence. Cash’s girlfriend later recanted her testimony and Hamilton was released early in 2011, *The Associated Press* reports. Judge Raymond Guzman declared Hamilton exonerated in January.

**11. New York** - In 2009 a U.S. federal judge cleared Fernando Bermudez of fatally shooting 16-year-old Raymond Blount during a fight in Manhattan’s Greenwich Village neighborhood in 1991, *Reuters* reports. Bermudez spent 18 years in prison and was compensated \$4.75 million in a wrongful conviction settlement with the state.

## We Can Use Your Help

The San Quentin News is not supported financially by the California prison system and depends on outside assistance. If you would like to help, there are two ways, both of which are tax-deductable. To contribute with a check, send it to Prison Media Project, c/o Media Alliance, 1904 Franklin Street, No. 818, Oakland, CA 94612. Do not use this address for general correspondence. Instead, write to the San Quentin News, 1 Main Street, San Quentin, CA 94964. To contribute with a credit card, go to our website, [www.sanquentinnews.com](http://www.sanquentinnews.com), click on Support, and then on that page go to the bottom paragraph and click on Here. That will take you to the page where you can use a credit card. A special thanks goes to Marin Sun Printing in San Rafael where our paper is printed.

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\*Have made more than one donation



# Arts & Entertainment

We invite people from around the world to send us a picture of you reading the San Quentin News. We hope you will include a well-known landmark in your photo. Thank you for your support



Mrs. Laila Taylor, London, U.K.

The sad truth is that most evil is done by people who never make up their minds to be either good or evil. -Hannah Arendt



Ms. Olivia Taylor in London, U.K.

## Sudoku Corner

### Last Issue's Sudoku Solution

9	3	2	6	4	8	7	1	5
8	7	4	5	1	3	2	6	9
6	1	5	9	2	7	4	3	8
5	9	1	4	8	6	3	2	7
4	6	7	3	9	2	5	8	1
2	3	8	1	7	5	6	9	4
1	5	9	2	3	4	8	7	6
3	4	8	7	6	9	1	5	2
7	2	6	8	5	1	9	4	3

3	6	1	2	7	8	9	4	5
7	4	9	1	6	5	2	3	8
2	8	5	3	4	9	7	1	6
6	2	4	9	8	7	1	5	3
1	5	3	6	2	4	8	9	7
9	7	8	5	3	1	6	2	4
8	9	7	4	5	2	3	6	1
5	1	6	7	9	3	4	8	2
4	3	2	8	1	6	5	7	9

8	1	9			5		3	
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3		6						
1			4			2		
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		5			6			1
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9					2		1	3
	4		3			6	2	8

	2	9	1				7	
		7		3	9		4	
		1	5			2		9
8		3	7					
				9				
					5	3		8
1		2			3	9		
	3		9	2		1		
	5				1	8	3	

## Snippets

During the desolate period of World War II many people were only allowed to have 4 ounces of sugar per week as what was considered their rations.

Earning a place in history, Rosa Parks was the first woman and second African-American to be laid to rest in the state at the U.S. Capital Rotunda in Washington D.C. after she passed away.

Very well known at the time of her era, Harriet Tubman lead more than 300 slaves to freedom. Many slave owners wanted her captured, so they put up \$40,000 as a reward.

One lady name Lucy Burns was considered a prominent and militant suffragist who constantly fought the cause in Great Britain and the U.S. She spent more time in prison than any other suffragist at that time.

The legendary Trung Sisters are the source of inspiration and courage to some Vietnamese soldiers. Many soldiers stay carry a picture of them in their wallet.

Eternal union for dedicated couples who still believes that the vein if the ring finger on the left hand runs directly to the heart.



# African-American Contributions to Sports

## SPORTS

By **Rahsaan Thomas**  
Sports Editor

American sports excluded Blacks for many years until pioneers broke through. Black History Month of February is a time to remember their extraordinary achievements across the athletic spectrum. Here are some examples, mostly from Wikipedia:

### BASKETBALL

Wilt Chamberlain was the NBA scoring champion from 1959-1965 and still holds the record for the most points scored in one game. He tallied 100 as a Philadelphia 76ers against the New York Knicks on March 2, 1962, in Hershey, Pa. Wilt hit 36 of 63 from the field, and made 28 of 32 free throws. Chamberlain's 4,029 regular-season points made him the only player to break the 4,000-point barrier.

John B. McLendon was the first Black coach for a professional basketball team with the ABL Cleveland Pipers in 1962 and then the ABA Denver Rockets in '69.

The Celtics drafted Chuck Cooper in the 1950 second round, making him the first Black player in the NBA. Nat "Sweetwater" Clifton and Earl Lloyd were also drafted into the NBA that year.

In 1966, Bill Russell became the first Black coach of a NBA team for the Boston Celtics.

Daryl Dawkins was the first Black man to be drafted into the NBA straight out of high school. He went from Maynard Evans High School in Orlando to the Philadelphia 76ers in the 1975 NBA Draft as the fifth overall pick.



File Photo

Ora Washington on the right holding her trophy

### BASEBALL

The Cuban Giants were the first Black professional basketball team. They were formed by men who worked as waiters in New York's Babylon Hotel back in 1895, according to 1999 Facts About Blacks, page 129.

In 1903, Dan McClellan, as a Cuban Giant, pitched the earliest known perfect game in Black baseball against a semi-pro team.

In 1952, Brooklyn Dodger Joseph Black became the first Black pitcher to win a World Series game.

James "Junior" Gilliam was the first Black coach of the Los Angeles Dodgers. He started with them as a second and third baseman and was named 1953 National League Rookie

of the Year. He was player-coach in 1964 and became a full-time coach in 1967. The Dodgers won pennants in 1974, 1977 and 1978 with Gilliam.

On April 14, 1955, Elston Howard played catcher for the Yankees, becoming their first Black player. He was a Yankee from 1955-1967 and coached them from 1967-1968, after playing for the Red Sox for one year.

### FOOTBALL

In 1946, Kenny Washington became the first Black professional football player as a Cleveland Ram. He played for UCLA and was inducted into the College Football Hall of Fame in 1956.

Emlen Tunnell was the first

Black to play for the New York Giants in 1948. He was also the first Black to be inducted into the Professional Football Hall of Fame in 1967.

Ernie Davis was the first Black man to win a Heisman Trophy in 1961 as a football running back with Syracuse University.

### TENNIS

In 1968, Arthur Ashe won the United States Amateur Championships and the first U.S. Open of the open era. He became the first Black male to capture the title and the only player to have won both the amateur and open national championships in the same year. He was the world's No. 1 professional tennis player.

Before the Williams sisters, there was Ora Washington, the first Black woman to win the American Tennis Association singles title in 1929. She won it eight times in nine years and 12 straight double championships.

Washington also played basketball for the Germantown Hornets, who won a national female title in 1930. She was inducted into the Temple University Sports Hall of Fame in the 1980s and the Women's Basketball Hall of Fame in Knoxville, Tenn. in 2009.

### BOXING

Jack Johnson became the first Black heavy weight champ by defeating Tommy Burns on Dec.

26, 1908, according to 1999 Facts About Blacks.

Theodore "Tiger" Flowers became the first Black middle-weight champ in 1926, after defeating Harry Greb. The Bleacher Report named him the third-greatest southpaw in boxing history.

Muhammad Ali, formerly

known as Cassius Clay, is generally considered the greatest heavyweight fighter in history. He was named Sportsman of the Century by Sports Illustrated and Sports Personality of the Century by the BBC. He defeated Sonny Liston in 1964 to become heavyweight champion. He remains the only three-time Lineal World Heavyweight Champ, having won the honor in 1964, 1974 and 1978. Ali was the Undisputed Heavyweight Champion of the World in 1964 from February to September.

In the Olympics:

George C. Poag was the first Black Olympian to win bronze medals in both the 200-meter and 400-meter hurdles in the 1904 Olympic games, according to the African-American Registry.

De Hart Hubbard was the first Black athlete to win the Olympic Broad Jump in Paris in 1924 according to 1999 Facts About Blacks, Second Edition By Raymond M. Corbin.

Eddie Tolan was the first Black to win an Olympic gold medal in the 100-meter dash back in 1932.

### GOLF AND HOCKEY

Charles Sifford was the first Black member of the professional Golfers Association. (1999 Facts About Blacks, page 136)

Alton White is best known for being the second player of African descent, after Willie O'Ree, to have played on a professional major league ice hockey team and for being the first hockey player of African descent to score 20 goals in a single season for a major league team. He scored 21 goals and had 21 assists for the Los Angeles Sharks during the 1972-73 season. He started with the New York Raiders in 1965.

## S.Q. Warriors' Coach Daniel Wright Expresses His Gratitude

Daniel Wright admits to making mistakes that sidetracked his professional basketball career. Although he is an inmate, his knowledge is not going to waste. He is the head coach of the San Quentin Warriors and a big part of the program's success.

"I'm extremely fortunate to have this position in prison," said Wright. "My family was able to go online to KTVU.com and see their son getting interviewed live. I'm now their screensaver."

Wright reported he played for the NBA Milwaukee Bucks in 1990. He had a 10-day contract under Dennis Harris. He also played pro overseas in Austria, New Zealand, Mexico, Europe, and Greece for six years. In addition, he recalled playing games in the CBA for the Wyoming Wild Catters under Cazzie Russell.

Wright says he ended up in prison "because of greed and stupidity." He caught a gun possession charge while working for Dennis Rodman, but his priors for "chasing money" inflated his prison sentence.

He didn't take the traditional get-drafted route to the NBA because he messed up in college.

Wright went to Fullerton Junior College in Orange County, where, he earned a scholarship to Idaho University.

"I was doing the wrong thing there. They gave me a car and money, and I ended up an ineligible number one stunner," said Wright.

His path to professional ball was through a tryout for the Clippers. Wright played in an

NBA summer pro league, where free agents were scouted for possible drafting to the Lakers or Clippers. Bryon Scott and Jamal Wilkes took part in the games.

"My team was 'The Latinos,' and I was selected to tryout for Don Cheaney, head coach of the Clippers at the time," said Wright. "I didn't make the team, but just them giving me a shot catapulted my career because

Cheaney selected me, and I did well. It raised some eyebrows and opened doors for me," he added.

He started as a player for the S.Q. Warriors before becoming coach. He played under an inmate from New York named George Lam for over a year. He lost interest in playing and worked out a switch with Lam.

"I coached, he played, then he

left and Bill (Epling) asked me to remain coach. You don't tell Bill no."

He has high praise for Don Smith and Epling, who are the sponsors largely responsible for getting talented players from the outside and equipment donated for the basketball program.

"They are like dads to me. I have love for them like they are family members. Those dudes are genuine," Wright commented.

This is Wright's third year as coach. "I love this year's team for its camaraderie and attitude. Last year's team was the most talented, but I didn't care for that team because of the attitudes I had to deal with. Too many guys worried about me instead of the team," said Wright.

When the Warriors started off 1-4 against the Christian Sports Ministries team, Wright planned to return as a player after healing from knee surgery. "They won't win anything with me on the court," says Wright.

However, with big wins over the Golden State Warriors organization and Pacific Union College, Wright remained on the sidelines smiling.

—By Rahsaan Thomas



Photo by Sam Hearn

Coaches Steve Kerr, Daniel Wright and Alvin Gentry



# Evolution of Hoop Dreams

By **Rahsaan Thomas**  
Sports Editor

The Christian Sports Ministries basketball program has evolved from a little guy, visiting with his team usually getting beaten badly at basketball, into a stage for former NBA, overseas pros and college players to ball against San Quentin inmates.

It all started 17 years ago with Don Smith, a 5-foot-7 guy who works as an engineering manager at Coherent, a laser company, who loves to play basketball and loves God.

"I played very little b-ball growing up -- just a little in junior high and pickup ball," Smith said. "Sports are just a means to an end and a fun way of doing it."

He first came in as a guest on a visiting basketball team.

"When I saw this place, I knew in my heart it would be a great place to do ministry," said Smith.

Smith came back with a team of his own—Christian Sports Ministry, aka the Green Team. Neither Smith nor his teammates could compete with the San Quentin talent, but they played for the love of the game and as a way to bring people together to hear the word of God.

Before the start, at halftime and after the game, all involved circled around center court to hear inspirational stories and pray together.

"The God factor -- that's what the circle is all about," said Robert "Bishop" Butler, the Warriors general manager and a San Quentin resident.

Smith met Bill Epling in a church basketball league and their meeting eventually led to bringing in much better players.

Although Smith wasn't very good, Epling liked something about him.

"It turned out Bill worked across the street from me," Smith said. "He invited me to a pickup game."

"An angel put us together," Epling said about Smith. "Why else would I invite the worst basketball player ever to play in our league?"

Things came up and Smith wasn't able to consistently sponsor the Green Team, so he asked Epling to seize the reigns.

"When Don asked me to take over, he advised me to pray on

it. I told him, 'I'm done praying about it. I'm in,'" said Epling.

About eight years ago, Epling brought in Ben Draa, an accountant for the Golden State Warriors organization.

"Draa went to the same high school as my daughter and they were boyfriend and girlfriend for a while," said Epling.

Draa had a great experience and told others about it, including Kirk Lacob, son of the Joe Lacob, who owns the G.S. Warriors. Krk came to see for himself.

"I love playing basketball," Lacob said. "The shared love for the game is a bonding experience."

Then Lacob brought in Bob Myers, the G.S. Warriors general manager. Myers played for the 1995 UCLA championship team.

"Bob loved it. He came back about five or six times," said Draa.

"It's one of my favorite days of the year," said Myers after a game.

Through Draa, Lacob and Myers, the Green Team has been able to bring in retired NBA players to compete and get active players to support.

In 2012, Hall of Famer Mark Jackson came in with Myers and others to play and speak some words of encouragement. Drummond Green came along with them, watched the game, and signed autographs.

In 2013, Jackson returned with former Chicago Bull and San Antonio player turned assistant coach Brian Scalabrine, Myers, Kirk and others. They defeated the S.Q. Warriors 134-119 in a game filled with highlights.

On hand for support was active G.S. Warrior Marreese "Mo" Speights.

The 2014 Golden State vs. S.Q. Warriors featured four generations of NBA players.

"I can't be happier that it reached this level," Draa said.

Six-time NBA champion and current Golden State coach Steve Kerr and assistant coach Alvin Gentry coached their team and inspired the prisoners.

"It's an awesome and amazing environment," Kerr said. "Great chance for human interaction and meeting people from different backgrounds..."

The Golden State players included assistant coaches and former NBA players Luke Walton and Jarron Collins, Golden State general manager Bob Myers, Johnny "Logo" West (Jerry West's son), Chris DeMarco, Nick Uren and Kirk Lacob.

Active Golden State players Marreese "Mo" Speights, Ognjen Kuzmi and Festus Ezeli, provided moral support from the bench.

"I've never done anything like this before. At the end of the day, everybody is happy to have us here," said Ezeli, who is Nigerian. "I'm happy I can share this with the prisoners. No way would I be able to do something like this in Nigeria."

Beside the active players were rookies Mitchell Watt from the University of Buffalo, Aaron Craft from Ohio State, and James McAdoo (Tarheels). None of them could risk injury playing on an outdoor court.

For the first time, the S.Q. Warriors actually beat the former NBA players, 92-88 in the Sept. 26 2014 game.



Photo by Sam Hearnes

Mark Jackson, Kirk Lacob, Mujahid Harris and Bob Myers battling in a 2012 game

The comical play-by-play announcing of Aaron "Harun" Taylor enhances the game experience.

On one notable 2014 play, Taylor commented "In the face, that was in the face of Luke Walton." Gentry sees coming into The Q as a chance to aid in rehabilitation.

"One silly mistake shouldn't

and Evan Fjelds, who all played pro overseas. Others included David King, a Division 2 college title-winner, and Chris Blees, an All-American who played at Claremont-McKenna with teammate Patrick Lacey.

Lacey has practically reassembled his Claremont-McKenna College team by bringing in Blees, Tejas Gala, Matt Richardson and Beau Heidrich.

"I'm glad we have our Claremont connection," said Lacey.

There's also Tyree McCary, a former All-American forward at Adam State College who plans to play pro in the Philippines this year; Antoine Maddox, who played for Georgia Tech; Ben Ilegbodu, a former Stanford walk-on, and Kyle Fowler, who played for Wake Forest.

Plus, on Oct. 19, a whole Pacific Union College team came in from Napa to play the Warriors.

The Green Team, so called for the color of their jerseys, come in every two weeks during the season. They often play double-headers against the S.Q. Kings too. This year, the Green Team dominated the win column; the Kings are 1-9, the Warriors 5-10 against them.

"This is the best basketball I can find in the Bay Area," said Lacey, who often plays in both games of the doubleheaders. "I can't find a better environment."

Now, Epling has over 40 guys cleared to play in the early Saturday morning games.

"The significance of what goes on attracts the young guys," Smith said. "They normally don't get up on Saturday mornings. They do now because they love the game and the friendships."

"The program is good for all involved," said Smith. "Our guys get a far more accurate picture of what an institution like this is and the people in it. Our culture has distorted the image of the people in prison. Inmates at Quentin are guys who love sports and love their families. It's good for everybody spiritually. It gives them the opportunity to hear our faith-based message and they grow."

The games do have a positive effect on the players.

"They are a blessing," said Anthony Ammons, a S.Q. Warrior forward. "Without realizing it, they have helped me become a better man. Even with serving 102 years to life, they have brought me light and hope for the next day. They allowed me to dream again."



Photo by Sam Hearnes

Ben Draa, Pat Lacey talking to Anthony Ammons and Don Smith smiling

"It was a tough road game. We never get to play at home," Myers joked after the game.

"It's a beautiful thing to see," said Butler "We have the best coach we ever had in Daniel Wright. He's a good PR person and he has the community support. He's given his life to the program—he doesn't do anything else but work and coach the Warriors."

define your whole life," said Gentry. "This is an opportunity to help with rehabilitation so you guys can be productive in the outside world where it really matters."

Draa became a sponsor for bringing in teams to play the over 40 S.Q. Kings.

The program started with mostly Christian players.

"We used to bring in Mike Allen, a three-time All-American at William Jessie Christian College in San Jose," said Epling.

However, he didn't come in enough to rack in wins, so the Green Team expanded their reach beyond the church.

"We thought the program would be more effective with better competition," said Epling.

Epling was able to recruit better players with his motto, "Get a good player and they'll know good players," but the S.Q. talent still dominated the win column until 2012.

"Bill's teams didn't win nothing when Mujahid and I were playing," said former S.Q. Warrior turned head coach Daniel Wright.

With the program opened up to all basketball players, Epling has been able to recruit pro and college-level talent. This includes Todd Hahs, Griffin Reilly



Photo by Ralphaela Casale

Ben Draa, Chris Blees, DeAndre Jordan, Andre Yancy, Brad Shell, Maurice Hanks, Tejas Gala, Don Smith and Johnathan Cannon listen to Bill Epling's (Red hat) joke



# Happy Valentine's Day

Ariana,  
Hello my  
love. Happy  
Valentine's  
Day to the  
most beau-  
tiful daugh-  
ter in the  
world.

-Love Daddy  
"Jerome Boone"

To Brenda,  
My loving wife, Hap-  
py Valentines Day and  
Happy Anniversary  
-Love Billy

To my love TaReese,  
Every day is Valen-  
tine's Day when I think  
of the love we share for  
each other, you are my  
true soulmate!

-Reginald Hunt Jr.

Stephanie,  
I wish I could be with  
you this Valentine's Day,  
but since I can't I  
want to take this oppor-  
tunity to  
send you  
my deep-  
est love  
a l o n g  
with my  
most sen-  
sual Val-  
entine's Day  
Kiss. L&L  
-Dwayne Mar-  
tin

Feliz día del amor y la  
amistad. Mando salu-  
dos a Terecia, Lorena,  
y Karlita por el 14 de  
Febrero día de San Val-  
entín, y feliz cumplea-  
ños a la señora Maria  
en este día tan especial  
hasta Yahualica Jalisco.  
Mi amor y corazón, de  
parte de Lupe Aranda  
con amor.

-Lupe Aranda

You are the true mean-  
ing of love, the reason  
for trust and the great-  
est part of respect! Hap-  
py Valentine's Day Mrs.  
Galvin. I love you.

-Rick Galvin

Melissia A.  
Happy Valentine's Day  
-Love Kaseem

Graciela Miramontes-  
Walker,  
Me and you will al-  
ways be. Happy Valen-  
tine's Day.  
-RayRay W.



To My  
Prov-erbs  
31 Girl

You are clothed with  
strength and dignity,  
and you can laugh at the  
days to come. I love you  
'til Heaven - then forever.  
-Your Michael

Alexis  
Happy Birthday Alexis,  
my Valentine Boo, in the  
next life that I'm blessed  
with I want



oth-er  
daughter  
wonderful like  
you. You are so pretty and  
I'm proud of who you are  
in many ways, I will love  
you always, forever and  
every 14 days.

-Love Always Daddy

This Valentine's Day  
is like every other Val-  
entine's Day: "Very  
Special." But what  
makes Valentine's  
Day "Very Special"  
is the love I receive  
from my sister. Happy  
Valentine's Day Sissy.  
-Michael Thomas

McKenna Grace,  
You fill my heart with  
love, joy and happiness.  
From Dad. Also to my  
friend in Malaga, Spain.  
-Paul Kirwan

Just a note to thank you  
for all that you have done

for me, for all  
your sacri-  
fices, and for  
your loyalty.  
Happy Val-  
entine's Day.  
-Fele ase  
Mclane

Amada mía,  
si yo pud-  
iera hablar  
todos los  
idiomas del  
mundo y de  
los ángeles  
pero no tengo  
tu amor, sería  
como un metal  
inservible. Si en-  
tendiera todos los  
planes de Dios, si  
tuviera todo el cono-  
cimiento y toda la fe que  
pudiera mover montañas  
pero no tengo tu amor, no  
valdría nada. Si entregara  
todo lo que soy como una  
ofrenda para ser quema-  
da pero no tengo tu amor,  
no valdría nada. Lo  
que estoy tratan-  
do de decir, es  
que tú eres todo  
para mi Amada  
esposa mía.  
-José R. Orte-  
ga.

Mis palabras y  
corazón hoy día  
son para ti, mi  
vicha Linda!  
Gracias por ser  
mi enamorada y de-  
jarme ser tu loquito  
en tu vida.  
Happy Valentines  
Day, Honey.  
-Julio Saca

Myrah,  
Happy Valentine's Day  
Baby Girl, many hugs and  
kisses,



flow-  
ers and  
treats, you  
are the rose o f  
all roses, chocolate of all  
sweets, wonders of all

ideas, brilliant and unique.  
My love for you is eternal  
and evolves with every  
tick, you're the guardian  
of my heart and the soul  
keeper of my existence.  
-Love Always Daddy

The Day I met my wife,  
Monica



my  
whole  
l i f e  
changed, she  
moved my heart and I still  
feel it till this day.  
-Nicholas Garcia

...Thanks, Aurora, for  
reaching



w a y  
down here  
where no winged beings  
dwell, and be-  
ing Avanti's  
Auren's  
and Sky's  
Queen Of  
Fire, and  
Earth's,  
too.  
- B .  
T h o m -  
as "Sky"  
BuenaVista

Vanessa,  
My Sweet-  
heart, Happy Val-  
entine's Day, I hope  
your gifts are sweet and  
melts your heartaches,  
you're an amazing young  
woman, beautiful and  
smart, I owe you my soul  
and I love you sweetheart.

-Love Always Daddy

To my daughter Boo and  
Pooh, time is winding  
down on our separation.  
YAHVAH, Elohim has  
been good to me. He has  
allowed me to learn and  
understand the wrong I  
have done and  
for this I am  
grateful  
happy valen-  
tine. I love  
y o u  
Dad-  
dy.  
-Fred-  
rick Wil-  
lis

En este día de  
San Valentín que  
celebramos el amor y  
la amistad, quiero man-  
dar cordiales saludos a  
mi mamá, mi esposa y  
a mis hijos. El amor es  
el que permanece en mi  
corazón. Por eso quiero  
decirles que los amo a to-  
dos sin importar el lugar  
o la distancia ustedes vi-  
ven conmigo, porque los  
tengo en mi corazón.  
Que Dios los  
bendiga.  
- P a b l o  
Ramirez

To my  
little  
brother  
Ricky  
and my  
sister Sar-  
ah:

Although  
Valentine's Day  
typically involves can-  
dy, balloons, over-priced  
teddy bears, and more  
candy, I hope that you  
two feel loved in more  
ways than the superfi-  
cial. I hope that, in spite  
of our family history, you  
two will grow to know  
love that is uncondition-  
al and communal. Know  
that you have a sister  
who loves you dearly and  
thinks about you every  
day. Open your hearts to  
love. Your big sister.  
-Sam

On 12-13-14 my life was  
forever changed. I mar-  
ried my best friend, my  
soul-mate, the love of  
my life. Thanks baby for  
making me the happiest  
man alive.  
- Barry Spillman



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Photo by Sam Hearnes

Founders of The Last Mile (TLM), Chris Redlitz and Beverly Parenti, during Demo Day with the first graduating class

## Tech Executives Offer Advice For Inmate Entrepreneurs

By Juan Haines  
Managing Editor

People don't usually talk about Silicon Valley and the California prison system at the same time. However, on any given day, venture capitalists as well as business men and women right out of Silicon Valley come inside San Quentin to hear inmate ideas from the entrepreneurial program The Last Mile (TLM).

TLM teaches inmates how to develop their own business plans and how to pitch their

plan to venture capitalists, business executives, public safety personnel, and other interested parties.

The pitch, given during Demo Day, is also an opportunity for the inmates to network and assess the feasibility of ideas they think would solve a problem in the business world. The next Demo Day is planned for later this month.

To help facilitate the learning process in the months before Demo Day, TLM sponsors Chris Redlitz and Beverly Parenti invite business profes-

sionals inside the prison to give classes on topics such as brainstorming, how to build a company and what kind of

See *Tech Exec.* on Page 5

## Elderly Expected to Be One-Third Of Inmate Population by 2030



Photo courtesy of CDCR

'They (elderly prisoners) can't leave the facility, of course. They're considered on medical parole and assigned a parole agent'

By Salvador Solorio  
Journalism Guild Writer

There are approximately 2.3 million people imprisoned in the United States. Changing demographics reflect the senior citizen, baby boomer wave will deeply affect prisons.

Between 1995 and 2010 the number of prisoners aged 55 and older quadrupled, according to a 2012 Human Rights Watch study. By the year 2030 seniors are expected to account for a third of all prisoners.

Currently in California, state

government is sending aged and ailing prisoners to private nursing homes. In 2010 the state passed Penal Code 6267, a law to provide long-term care for ailing prisoners. The director of communication and legislation for the Correctional Health Care Services department, Joyce

Hayhoe, stated aging prisoners who have not been deemed a danger to society and needing 24-hour care are placed in private nursing homes under certain conditions.

"They can't leave the facility,

See *Elderly* on Page 8

**From April 13 through 16, the American Correctional Association is scheduled to audit San Quentin. See back page for more information.**



Photo by Sam Hearnes

Inmate displays his unique crane-making talents

By Phoeun You  
Graphic Designer

Inside San Quentin's Interfaith Chapel, 15 convicted murderers and lifer inmates came together to fold hundreds of origami hearts for patients at Oakland's Children's Hospital.

The inmates' goal was to

uplift the children's hearts and make them feel loved and not forgotten on Valentine's Day.

At the end of the origami workshops, hundreds of stand-up heart-shaped origami were sent to the hospital and placed on the children's dinner trays on

See *Lifers* on Page 9

**From April 13 through 16, the American Correctional Association is scheduled to audit San Quentin. See back page for more information.**



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From You!

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Please use the following criteria when submitting:

- Limit your articles to no more than 350 words.
- Know that articles will be edited for content and length.
- The newspaper is not a medium to file grievances. (For that, use the prison appeals process.) We encourage submitting articles that are newsworthy and encompass issues that will have an impact on the prison populace.
- Please do not use offensive language in your submissions.
- Poems and art work (cartoons and drawings) are welcomed.
- Letters to the editor should be short and to the point.

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Father George Williams Speaks  
Of His San Quentin Experiences

By Gino Sevacos  
Journalism Guild Writer

The following is the first of a two-part interview with Father George Williams, the Catholic Chaplain for San Quentin.

How did you come to work at San Quentin?

I had visited here a few times when Father Barber was the chaplain. At the time of those visits, I had no idea I'd ever be working here.

I came out here to talk with him about his programs here – to get some ideas to bring back to Massachusetts. I was impressed with the chapels here and the programs available.

I remember thinking how much I would like to work here.

Then out of the blue in the summer of 2010, a Jesuit friend of mine in Los Angeles called and asked me if I would be interested in coming to San Quentin as a chaplain since Father Barber had by then decided to move on.

My immediate reaction was, "Of course!" And I joked with my community (who tend to be academics) that it was like getting a call from Harvard asking if I wanted a tenured position there. So it was really like an offer for the best job ever for me – and I jumped at the chance.

The reaction back East was, "Oh, wow. San Quentin!"

My parent's reaction was simple: "Are you insane?" They didn't like the idea of their only son moving all the way out to California only to get shanked on his first day on the job (they watched too many "Lockdown" episodes).

So I was pretty excited and happy at the prospect of coming here – and a bit apprehensive of working on Death Row – not sure why. I guess I had visions of Hannibal Lecter or something. But the reality has been that I really enjoy working with the guys on Death Row and no one there is like Hannibal Lecter!

It wasn't like anyone had to twist my arm to move to the Bay Area either – it is beautiful here, and as much as I love the city of Boston, I haven't missed the weather back there. And I get back a few times a year to see people and spend time in Boston, so I don't get homesick.

Actually after four years now, this area is beginning to feel more and more like home. San Quentin certainly does.

I decided to drive out here when I moved – to really make it a kind of spiritual pilgrimage – driving across the country slowly, over a few weeks, staying with friends along the way – including a week at a monastery in Colorado – a place I really love.

So it was a grace-filled and smooth transition from East to West, and I haven't regretted it for a second. My hope is that I



Father George Williams giving a sermon inside the Catholic Chapel

can now do 25-to-life here at San Quentin.

I can't think of anything I'd rather do than work here and I'm incredibly grateful that God has given me this opportunity to do so. My four years here so far have truly been the best years of my life, so far ... And that's in no small part to the men in blue here who make working here such a joy.

What was your vision?

I don't know if I had a clear vision about coming to San Quentin. I had been working in prison ministry for about 20 years. I started at Boston City Jail and slowly worked my way up to the state prison system as a chaplain in Massachusetts. While I have a deep love for this work, I found Massachusetts a pretty horrible system to work in as a chaplain. There was little in the way of rehabilitative programming in the state prisons. They were and are pretty bleak places.

I think my mental image of San Quentin was like most people on the East Coast have – a famous prison – Death Row, violent past, Johnny Cash and so on. It has a scary cache about it.

My vision for the Catholic Chapel here is that it be truly a house of God that people of all faiths (or no faith) can come to be spiritually fed, whatever their path.

How has being a Jesuit influenced ministry here?

One of the things that attract-

ed me to the Jesuits (the official title of the order is "The Society of Jesus") is that its members tend to be really smart men who have open minds and never stop learning.

Another thing that attracted me to the Jesuits was their emphasis on working with the poor and marginalized.

A quote that caught my attention early on was a statement they made about our faith: "The mission of the Society of Jesus today is the service of faith, of which the promotion of justice is an absolute requirement. For reconciliation with God demands the reconciliation of people with one another."

Looking back, I see how God has guided my choices – and led me to this work. The Christian churches haven't always responded enough to prison ministry – the work has to be an expression of the Gospel – to go where the church is not, to serve those who society has neglected or rejected.

It just so happened that as I began my life as a Jesuit, the U.S. was already beginning a tragic move toward mass incarceration. At no time have there ever been so many Americans locked up in jails and prisons – and the churches for the most part haven't mobilized to meet the needs of prisoners or those who work in prisons.

Part Two of this interview will be published in June.

From all staff and inmates who appreciate Lt. Graham's dedication to public service, "Have a speedy recovery. Get well soon."

Corrections:

In February's edition Marin County Supervisor Kathrin Sears' name was misspelled in the headline and the story. We apologize for those mistakes.



# FCC Proposes New Regulations To Limit High Phone Costs

By Kevin D. Sawyer  
Journalism Guild Chairman

The Federal Communications Commission (FCC) has proposed new regulations to curb excessive charges by the prison telephone industry.

The purpose of the proposed regulations, according to Prison Policy Initiative (PPI), is to “protect the families of incarcerated people from the predatory prison telephone industry.”

In October 2014, the FCC called for feedback in an effort to, among other things, ban kickbacks to prisons that award telephone contracts to service providers such as Securus, CenturyLink, ATN, Telmate and Global Tel\*Link (GTL).

The FCC reported GTL alone “has more than 1,900 correctional facility customers,” according to its documents.

“The FCC’s previous order said that companies aren’t allowed to treat the kickbacks as part of the cost of doing business,” PPI reported.

Other FCC proposals were to cap in-state and out-of-state calling rates, PPI reported.

“The previous FCC regulation capped only the rates for calls between states, which tend to be more expensive but also only make up about 20 percent of all calls from incarcerated people,” PPI reported.

The new proposal, according to PPI, would make certain a family would not be subject to paying more to talk to a loved

one who is incarcerated just because that person is in the same state.

Aside from the proposal to stop kickbacks, PPI reported the FCC wanted feedback regarding placing caps, limits or a complete prohibition on “ancillary fees.”

FCC documents cite such fees. For example, GTL charges a minimum fee of \$25 to set up a prepaid account for customers to receive collect calls from inmates. If the customer does not use the account and later requests a refund, GTL will charge a \$5 refund fee.

“If the account remains inactive for 180 days, the remaining funds become the property of GTL,” the FCC reported. “The Prison Policy Initiative recommends ‘banning all illegitimate fees.’”

“Our research found that fees drive up the phone bills families have to pay, so this step would make a huge difference for the more than 2 million kids with an incarcerated parent,” PPI reported.

According to PPI, the FCC also requested more feedback on how to address other telecommunication services, like video visitation, that lack many of the same regulatory oversight as phone services.

The FCC is looking for “strategies (on how) to make the prison phone market more competitive, and increase access for individuals with disabilities,” PPI reported. In addition, the

FCC is looking to see how it can apply the new regulations to existing contracts.

“Here at PPI, we were pleased to see that the FCC cited our research, presentations, petition submissions, and technical comments throughout their proposal to take a huge step forward,” PPI said.

“The commission took long-overdue steps to provide relief to the millions of Americans paying unjust and unreasonable interstate inmate phone rates. These exorbitantly high rates discouraged phone calls and, at times, made it nearly impossible for inmates to maintain contact with their families, friends, and communities, to society’s detriment,” the FCC said.

In its Second Further Notice of Proposed Rulemaking, the FCC said reforms to Inmate Calling Service (ICS) would benefit society by making it easier and cost-effective for inmates to stay in touch with their families and friends.

Citing an April 2014 study by the Department of Justice, the FCC found that two-thirds of the 400,000 inmates released over a five-year period were rearrested within three years; and 75 percent were rearrested within five years.

“As a nation, we need to take all actions possible to reduce these recidivism rates. Studies have shown that family contact during incarceration is associated with lower recidivism



Photo by Sam Hearnes

Tommy “Shakur” Ross calling home – many prisoners are unaware of high calling rates

rates,” the FCC said.

The FCC acknowledged the disparity between Local Exchange Carriers that provide service to the public, and those, such as GTL, that provide ICS.

“While the commission prefers to promote competition to ensure rates are just and reasonable, it remains clear that in the inmate-calling service market, as currently structured, competition is failing to do so,” the FCC said.

According to the FCC, companies that provide ICS have been “characterized by some as subject to ‘reverse competition,’ forcing providers to compete

not on price or service quality but on the size of site commission payments.”

In the FCC document citing consumer disclosures, it sought comments on “how to ensure that rates and fees are more transparent to consumers.”

The regulatory agency also sought comments on how service providers could better notify customers regarding ICS options that are available to them and the cost of those options.

According to the FCC, “One ICS provider underscored the importance of ‘educating the consumer.’”

# FCC Propone Nuevas Regulaciones Para Limitar El Alto Costo de Llamadas de Telefono

Por Kevin D. Sawyer  
Presidente del Gremio Periodístico

La Comisión Federal de Comunicaciones (FCC) propuso nuevas regulaciones para frenar los cargos excesivos por la industria de teléfonos en la prisión.

El propósito de las regulaciones propuestas, de acuerdo a la Póliza de Iniciativa de la prisión (PPI), es “proteger las familias de personas encarceladas de la industria depredadora de teléfonos que opera en la prisión.”

En Octubre del 2014, la FCC busco recaudar información, entre otras cosas, en un esfuerzo para prohibir a las prisiones las facilidades (mordidas) que conceden contratos a proveedores de servicios como Securus, CenturyLink, ATN, Telmate y Global Tel\*Link (GTL).

La FCC reporto que la GTL por si sola “tiene mas de 1,900 clientes en las instalaciones correccionales,” de acuerdo a los documentos de la FCC.

“La orden previa de la FCC mencionó que a las compañías no se les permite tratar las facilidades (mordidas) que se les dan como parte de el costo al hacer negocios,” reporto la PPI.

Otras de las propuestas de la FCC fueron la de establecer un limite a los cargos de llamadas

dentro del estado y fuera del estado, reporto la PPI.

La regulación previa de la FCC solamente limitaba las tarifas de llamadas entre estados, lo cual tiende a ser mas costoso pero también únicamente compensa cerca del 20 porciento de todas las llamadas de personas encarceladas,” reporto la PPI.

De acuerdo a la PPI, la nueva propuesta se asegurara de que la familia no este expuesta a pagar mas al hablar con su ser querido quien este encarcelado solamente porque tal persona esta en el mismo estado.

Aparte de la propuesta de parar las facilidades (mordidas), La PPI reporto que la FCC busco recaudar información con respecto a situar restricciones, limites o una prohibición completa en la “cuota auxiliar.”

Los documentos de la FCC cito tales cuotas. Por ejemplo, la GTL cobra una cuota mínima de \$25 para crear una cuenta prepagada para que los clientes reciban llamadas por cobrar de presos. Si el cliente no utiliza la cuenta y después solicita un reembolso, la GTL cobrara \$5 por cuota de reembolso.

“Si la cuenta permanece inactiva por 180 días, los fondos restantes pasan a ser propiedad de la GTL,” reporto la FCC. “La Póliza Iniciativa de la Prisión recomienda la ‘pro-

hibición a toda cuota ilegal.”

“Nuestra investigación encontró que las cuotas aumentan las facturas de teléfono que las familias tienen que pagar, por lo tanto este paso hará una gran diferencia para mas de 2 millones de niños con padres encarcelados,” reporto la PPI.

De acuerdo a la PPI, la FCC también solicito más auto-crítica sobre como abordar otros servicios de telecomunicaciones, como visitas por video, que carece de las mismas normas que rigen a los servicios de teléfono.

La FCC esta buscando “estrategias en como hacer que el mercado de teléfono de la prisión sea mas competitivo, y aumentar el acceso para individuos con discapacidades,” la PPI reporto. Además, la FCC esta observando como se puede aplicar las nuevas regulaciones a contratos existentes.

“Aquí en la PPI, estamos satisfechos al mirar que la FCC cito nuestra investigación, presentaciones, peticiones y comentarios técnicos a través de todas las propuestas para dar un gran paso hacia delante,” La PPI menciona.

“La comisión tomo los pasos largamente atrasados para proveer alivio a los millones de americanos que pagan tarifas de teléfono injustas e irrazonables por llamadas interestatales

que los presos efectúan. Esas tarifas bastante altas desaniman el hacer llamadas por teléfono, y algunas veces, es casi imposible para los presos mantener contacto con sus familias, amigos y comunidades, lo cual es perjudicial para la sociedad,” la FCC menciona.

En su Segundo Aviso de la Propuesta Reglamentaria, la FCC dijo que las reformas del Servicio de Llamadas del Preso (ICS), beneficiara a la sociedad al hacer más fácil y accesible el costo efectivo de las llamadas para que los presos se mantengan en contacto con sus familias y amigos.

Citando un estudio por el Departamento de Justicia en Abril del 2014, la FCC encontró que en un periodo de cinco años dos-tercios de los 400,000 presos puestos en libertad fueron arrestados nuevamente en menos de tres años; y el 75 por ciento fueron arrestados en menos de cinco años.

“Como nación, necesitamos tomar toda acción posible para reducir estas tasas de reincidencia. Estudios han mostrado que el contacto con familiares durante el encarcelamiento esta asociado con una tasa de reincidencia baja,” la FCC menciona.

La FCC reconoce la desigualdad entre Empresas de Intercambio Local que proveen servicio al público, y aquellas, tales

como la GTL, que proveen el Servicio de Llamadas al preso (ICS).

La FCC anuncio que, “Mientras la comisión prefiere promover la competición para asegurarse que las tarifas sean justas y razonables, se mantiene claro que en el mercado de servicio de llamada al preso, como se encuentra actualmente estructurada, la competición a fallado en llevarlo a cabo.”

De acuerdo a la FCC, las compañías que son proveedoras de ICS han sido “caracterizadas por algunos como sujetas a ‘revertir la competición’ forzando a los proveedores a competir no por precios o calidad de servicios, sino por el tamaño de las comisiones.”

En el documento de la FCC, citando las revelaciones al consumidor, busco comentarios en “como asegurar que las tarifas y cobros sean más claros para los consumidores.”

La agencia reguladora también buscó comentarios sobre como los proveedores de servicios podrían mejorar la forma de notificar a los clientes con respecto a las opciones del ICS que están a su disposición y sobre el costo de esas opciones.

De acuerdo a la FCC, “Un proveedor de la ICS subrayo la importancia de la ‘educación al consumidor.’”

—Traducción Marco Villa



# Searching for Accuracy In the Recidivism Rate

By Chung Kao  
Staff Writer

The states should move away from collecting and using recidivism data as a single number that uniformly defines success or failure in sentencing and corrections policy, urged a recent report by the Urban Institute.

The report points out that recidivism, the most commonly used definition of correctional success, is “most frequently reported as a single statewide rate, which is too imprecise to draw meaningful conclusions and insufficient for assessing the impact of changes to policy and practice.”

“Making recidivism a meaningful performance measure

demands that states employ a wide range of reoffending metrics. States should shift their thinking about recidivism from reporting one number to developing a portfolio of outcome measures that assess the impact of correctional interventions,” the report said.

The report, titled “Improving Recidivism as a Performance Measure,” analyzed the movements of the states that participate in the Justice Reinvestment Initiative to change the way they approach criminal justice policy development and adoption. These states “engage in a data-driven process that targets the drivers of the correctional population and prison costs,” and as a result, “more than 20 states have enacted reforms to

reduce correctional spending so that a portion of the savings can be reallocated to programs that improve public safety,” the report found.

Citing various data from the states, the report outlined four steps that it suggests are necessary to make recidivism a meaningful performance measure:

The first is to define recidivism using multiple measures of success.

Recidivism reduction is the responsibility of multiple agencies and many different actors. States “should think of recidivism as a series of different performance indicators that must be carefully calibrated to the outcome they are intended to measure.”

In addition to return to custody, states should also include desistance, time to failure, crime severity and behavior change as indicators of success.

Second, states should develop protocols to ensure data collections are consistent, accurate and timely.

The current reporting on recidivism by the states is inconsistent at best. “Ongoing data collection and analysis is necessary for any performance measure.”

In the data collection process, states should assign unique identifiers and link data across criminal justice agencies, develop long-term records, collect contextual information and update changes in status.

Third, analyses of data should account for the underlying composition of the population.

Recidivism will be a more useful performance measure when we can compare recidivism outcomes across populations. As a necessary precursor, statistical techniques that

account for the risk level of the population being studied must be employed for this comparison.

“Risk-adjusted” recidivism rates – expected recidivism rates compared with actual observed rate of recidivism – should be used in analyzing recidivism across populations, such as, for example, parolees and max-outs.

Last, states should package the findings on recidivism to maximize its impact, and get the results into the hands of decision makers.

Recidivism analysis “has to be packaged succinctly and disseminated to the right audience to influence the direction of policy and practice.

“To maximize the impact of recidivism as a performance measure, states should provide annual information to decision makers in all three branches of the government, report a variety of recidivism information to measure success and summarize findings for policymakers.”

# Undocumented Immigrants on the Rise Since September 11

By Charles David Henry  
Journalism Guild Writer

The excessive incarceration of undocumented immigrants and other non-citizens currently residing within the U.S. border has accelerated since the 9-11 terrorist attacks, the Justice Policy Journal reports.

Criminalizing immigration has rapidly accelerated since September 2001, the study for the Center on Juvenile and Criminal Justice concluded.

“The United States has developed a prison-industrial complex,” the report said.

Proponents contend that the private sector can more efficiently provide services than the government, leading to cost containment and the reduction of the federal budget and debt,” the study stated.

The sentiment toward undocumented immigrants has soured since 2001, according to the study prepared by Alissa R. Ackerman and Rich Furman of the University of Washington and Meghan Sacks of Fairleigh Dickinson University.

The detention of immigrants and noncitizen residents in the United States is nothing new, nor is the use of incarceration as the primary means to punish them its citizens, the study says.

The authors report undocumented immigrants are a primary target of the prison industrial complex.

“The immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) has partnered with the private prison industry to detain immigrants. Some scholars have argued that this movement is part of a ‘new penology’ where immigrants are determined to be a dangerous and risky segment of the population that must be controlled,” the study said.

Private prison companies obtain the most revenue from state prison contracts and it stands to reason that as state prison population decrease, so too will profits. To this end, it is essential that streams of profit must continue to flow. Immigrant detention and the criminalization of immigration will provide that

revenue, the researchers claim.

According to the study, “Approximately 12 percent of the federal prison population is currently comprised of individuals convicted of or awaiting trial for immigration offenses. There are conflicting reports as to how many immigrant detainees are housed in private facilities.”

ICE reports “17 percent of individuals detained by them are housed in contract, or private facilities in 2012.” However, an Associated Press report from the same year suggests nearly half of immigrant detainees were held by private prison corporations, the report noted.

There were around 2.3 million people incarcerated in the U.S. today. According to researchers, this does not include roughly 33,000 people who were detained every day by Immigration and Customs Enforcement.

Ackerman, Furman and Sacks defined a new penology as the management, surveillance and control of a specific group of people. It’s about identifying and managing these disobedient groups.

A religiously and ethnically constituted group of Muslim and Arab men has allegedly victimized the American public. “As a result, law enforcement tactics such as racial profiling and preventive detention that would have shocked the nation 20 years ago are tolerated and even condoned as a ‘necessary evil’ for the protection of national security,” according to the study.

The study asserts that rehabilitation is no longer the model of the criminal justice system. This was evidenced by the increase and disparities that led to a public movement of harsher sentencing legislation.

New sentencing laws resulted in a noticeable shift from rehabilitation to retribution and incapacitation. In their opinion, danger management is a part of the move to a new penology.

“These laws have provided the political climate to detain more people. The number of individuals detained has risen exponentially over the last 30 years and corresponds with the

rise of the overall U.S. prison population,” the study said.

Three major transformations accompanied this shift to the new penology. According to their study, “the language of clinical diagnosis has been replaced by the language of probability and risk; the goal of reducing recidivism is abandoned for an increasingly efficient system of control; and the strategy of targeting individuals has been replaced by a focus on aggregate populations of offenders.”

The authors of the study wrote, “Selective incapacitation policies moved to the forefront of the criminal justice system in the 1980s. These policies seek to identify and incapacitate high rate offenders at the height of

their offending in order to reduce crime”

The new penology is present in immigration policies, the study claims. “The priorities of the immigration system have shifted and can be seen by the growth of immigration law enforcement, the targeting of immigrants with criminal background for law enforcement, the increasing percentage of noncitizens being detained, and the paradoxical growth of admittance into and deportation from the United States at the same time.”

The study adds, “The new penology corresponds with and reinforces one of the most profound changes in U.S. incarceration and most importantly in

the incarceration and detention of immigrants: the privatization of prisons. This phenomenon is apparent in the accelerated growth of the private prison industry.”

This rise in the prison population “obviously includes the undocumented, but may also include refugees, asylum seekers and even U.S. citizens that appear to meet some physical or ethnic criteria,” the study reads.

Instead of being well informed about the realities of immigration, policy and reform, the American public has been appeased by the new penology and remains relatively silent on the realities of detection, detention and deportation, the study concludes.

# Sheriff Mirkarimi Addresses Neglected Issues in San Francisco

Continued from Page 1

for California is 22 percent, and for San Francisco, 23.4 percent.

According to analysts with San Francisco’s office of controller, even with various local safety net adjustments, for a family of four renting in San Francisco, poverty registers at an annual income of \$36,349.

The biggest takeaway from a discussion about poverty has little to do with the data itself - it’s the fact that we know what to do but are not doing it.

This reality was brought into sharper focus Jan. 10 (2014) for a growing underclass exiting our County Jail. I had the honor of presiding over the San Francisco Sheriff’s Department Five Keys Charter High School graduation. We are the first city or county in the nation to provide a high school in its jails, a school with a union faculty.

More than 80 women and men, ages 19 to 59, about half in custody and half formerly incarcerated, were feted for obtaining their high school diploma or GED. The graduates’ stories of overcoming adversity and righting their wrongs were incredible.

One man concurrently mastered his English as a second language certificate and his GED. A mother overcame her dislike for algebra to test exceptionally well toward her diploma.

It was their day, and ours, as I shared: “Orange is the new black when you don our cap and gown.” But beyond the milestone of a high school diploma, we’re reminded that unless there is affordable access to City College or another similar institution, or vocational training aimed at gainful employment, coupled with life skills for community re-entry, then we’re looking at recycling another generation through poverty.

Because 35 to 40 percent of our inmate population are parents, their incapacity to reach economic sustainability traps their children in a similar cycle.

San Francisco is in the unique position of having one of the most under-crowded jail systems in the country. Progress on tackling high recidivism rates is on the upswing — thanks to the collaboration among our criminal justice partners. However, preparing inmates for the real world is so undermined by the high

cost of living in the San Francisco Bay Area that many will return to their families or communities discouraged by their inability to make a decent living or find respectable housing.

Before and after they exit jail in pursuit of a job, we’ll teach the soft and hard skills: Thrift. Determination.

Invariably, though, we’re invigorating a growing class of working poor if we neglect to address the real cost of living and its resulting measure of poverty in San Francisco.

Here is what we can do (about) poverty in San Francisco:

- Take the politics out of raising the local minimum wage, and stepladder increases over 10 years.
- Establish an official county poverty rate and methodology to determine it for San Francisco.
- Develop a city master plan on ending poverty and retaining class diversity.
- Produce a meaningful response to the mass exodus of San Francisco’s Black population and to the prospective impact on the Latino population.



# FBI's Data of Arrest Records Creates Problem For Anyone Who Was Cleared of Charges

By Charles David Henry  
Journalism Guild Writer

Nearly one out of every three American adults is on the FBI's master criminal database, and that can create problems for those who were cleared of charges.

"Over the last 20 years, authorities have made more than a quarter of a billion arrests." Between 10,000 and 12,000 new names are added every day, according to a Wall Street Journal report.

"Many people who have never faced charges, or have had charges dropped, find that a lingering arrest record can ruin their chance to secure employment, loans and housing," the Aug. 18 report said.

Cases of mistaken arrests are also forwarded to the FBI. In many instances, only half of the records with the agency are fully updated. Arrest information is forwarded to the FBI when a case is thrown out locally, but not necessarily updated there.

"There is a myth that if you are arrested and cleared that it has no impact," said Georgetown law professor Paul Butler. He believes these problems linger for years.

In the late 1980s and early 1990s, law enforcement agencies cracked down on urban areas. More than 100,000 officers were put on the streets to combat an out-of-control crime rate.

"The wave of arrests has been fueled in part by unprecedented federal dollars funneled to local police departments and new policing tactics that condoned arrests for even the smallest offenses," the newspaper reported.

In 2011 the government spent \$212 billion on law enforcement at the local and state level, "including judicial, police and corrections cost, according to the most recent estimates provided by the U.S. Census Bureau," the report revealed.

"You've got these large numbers of people now who are stigmatized," said Jack Levin, co-director of the Brudnick Center on Violence and Conflict at Boston Northeastern University. "The impact of so many arrests is catastrophic."

"We made arrests for minor infractions that deterred the more serious infractions down the road," said James Pasco, executive director of the Fraternal Order of Police, which represents about 335,000 police officers. "We don't apologize for that." He claims innocent people are alive because of actions taken by law enforcement officers during that time.

Researcher at the University of South Carolina tracked 7,335 randomly selected people in their 20s. Forty percent of the males interviewed were arrested before age 23. "The rate was highest for blacks at 49 percent, 44 percent for Hispanics and 38

percent for whites."

They found one in five women had been arrested at least once by the age of 23.

Statistics show "47 percent of those arrested weren't convicted. In more than a quarter of cases, subjects weren't even formally charged."

In one case study, a Hispanic male was arrested and charged with sexually assaulting two young girls. The prosecutor's office dropped the charges because he was the wrong person. He had to hire a lawyer to seek formal expungement after learning "the burden was on him to clear his record."

Internet websites and background check businesses are charging fees to correct public records and remove mug shots and bogus charges. Recently, California Gov. Jerry Brown signed a new bill making it illegal for websites to charge state residents to have their mug shots and arrest photos removed, the report said.

"According to 2012 survey by the Society for Human Resource Management, 69 percent of employers conduct criminal background checks on all job applicants. Fewer than that — about 58 percent — allow candidates to explain any negative results of a check," the newspaper stated.

Some employers worry about turning down applicants because of criminal records. Business owner Mike Mitternacht

said he could be open to a discrimination claim. "I have to do the background checks and take my chances. It's a lose-lose situation."

In 2009, Precious Daniels participated in a protest against Blue Cross Blue Shield of Michigan during a debate over the new health care law. She was arrested with only a misdemeanor disorderly conduct charge and released on \$50 bail. The charge was subsequently dropped.

Daniels didn't anticipate any future problems until she applied for a job with the Census Bureau in 2010. Several days later, she received notification that a routine background check uncovered a "red flag."

According to the report, "For her application to proceed, the Census Bureau informed her she would need to submit fingerprints and gave her 30 days to obtain court documents proving her case had been resolved without a conviction."

Clearing her name was no easy task. "From what I was told by the courthouse, they didn't have a record," Daniels said. According to the report, "she didn't get the job."

Today, Ms. Daniels is part of a class-action lawsuit against the Census Bureau alleging that tens of thousands of African-Americans were discriminated against because of the agency's use of arrest records in its hiring process," it was reported.

Over 850,000 applicants received similar letters to the one sent to Daniels, said Adam Klein, the New York plaintiff attorney.

The Census Bureau and the Department of Justice representatives denied these allegations. They allege the plaintiffs' method for analyzing hiring data was "unreliable" and "statistically invalid."

In 2012, John Keir and his wife were arrested for criminal mischief for scratching someone's car with a key. The report said, "They were found not guilty at trial."

The 35-year-old Keir was hired by Regions Bank as an \$85,000-a-year information security official in 2014. The bank sent his fingerprints to the FBI as part of a criminal background check. Several weeks later, he was fired, the story said.

Keir "says his firing resulted after failing to disclose his recent arrest record as well as a number of traffic violations during his teens that had branded him as a 'youthful offender' in Alabama. He says he didn't lie on his application, and only recalls being asked about any criminal convictions."

Arrest records don't always disappear over the years. According to the report, "An arrest record can only be removed if the local court system notifies the FBI that it should take it out of the file."

## Tech Executives Provide Advice Through The Last Mile Program

Continued from Page 1

ideas attract venture capitalists.

### BRAINSTORMING

Last winter when Tina Seelig, author of *What I Wish I Knew When I was 20*, visited the men, she talked about how to brainstorm for business ideas.

"If you want to succeed, don't have a fixed mindset," Seelig said. "Work on changing your position and perspective. Once the right questions are asked, the answers will come."

She encouraged the men to leave their comfort zones, suggesting that new experiences may lead them to new passions. Passion, according to Seelig, is the key to a successful business.

She also encouraged the group to see every problem as an opportunity.

Seelig's tips to inmates included standing up while brainstorming, focusing on one topic, considering different points of view, and using small teams to allow better communication between participants.

### BUILDING A COMPANY

For the last 25 years, Michelle Messina has worked with start-ups in Silicon Valley.

"The job you're embarking on is really, really hard. The best thing you can do is build a

support team," she said during her visit. "What's so unique about Silicon Valley is its diversity in culture. There are 120 different languages spoken and about 49 percent of the people are foreign born."

Messina told the students what to consider when building a company.

"You must think about validation in the marketplace. Who is your customer base? You must be solving a problem in the marketplace organically. It's about knowing your company, and making contact with that customer, and making the sell in person. Are you solving a problem?"

Messina then listened to some of the men present their ideas and gave advice on where improvements could be



File photo

Michelle Messina

made.

Afterward Parenti evaluated each man's viability as to whether his plan was up to par

for the March Demo day.

If the plan was up to par, he was in the Starting Line Up category. If his plan was good, but needed work, he was On the Bench. If the idea itself needed work, he was Not Suiting Up.

Of the 19 participants, five were in the Starting Line Up, five were On the Bench and four were Not Suiting Up. The other five participants did not present their ideas that day.

### PITCHING IDEAS

On the day venture capitalist Dave McClure came to San Quentin, he listened to some pitches, then said, "When you're pitching to a venture capitalist, talk about the problem, not the solution."

"What's the same about everybody is the optimism of

wanting to succeed," McClure added. "However, out of 100 companies, maybe five to 10 might actually work."

McClure explained what it means for a business idea to "pivot."

"Pivot means that whatever you built did not work, and you need to change something in your product," McClure said. "When you pivot, there may be some part of it that is not working and needs to be changed."

McClure started an investment group called 500 Start Ups. He said the idea is to invest in many companies in order to answer some of questions about what it takes to run a company.

"I may not be in the same position as you guys, but I consider myself an underdog," McClure said, referring to the ups and downs of his life.

"A lot of people we're going to invest in aren't going to make it. However, even the ones who don't make it are still a part of the community as long as people feel that they've got a shot," he said.

Referring to how the inmates' pitches sounded, Redlitz said, "You guys were good, but you have to work toward great."

"People in Silicon Valley believe they can do great things. Sometimes, they give advice, sometimes they give money, sometimes they tell you you're full of it, but that's helpful, too," said McClure.

"Most of my success comes from not giving up," McClure added.



Photo by Sam Hearn

Thanks to The Last Mile team and supporters, Demo Day in 2014 was a success



# Figuring Out I Was in Fact a Gang Member

By Arnulfo T Garcia  
Editor-in-Chief

## EDITORIAL

At 23 Kim (Al-Ameen) McAdoo of Oakland was arrested for the murder of Tracy Smith and attempted murder of Brian Cole. He was convicted and sentenced to life in prison.

In a book review for Pat-ten College, McAdoo reveals himself as a reckless young gang member who terrorized his community. He did this by selling drugs and carrying guns that led to a turf war, which took the life of an innocent young woman. She had nothing to do with violence, but made the fatal mistake of being in the wrong place at the wrong time.

The author describes three characteristics of “lifestyle addictions” relating to obsession, compulsion, and progression.

McAdoo’s essay gave me a better understanding of criminal addictions and the definition of a gang member.

McAdoo defied his mother’s authority; he rebelled against his teachers; he was angry and out of control. At age 19, he found himself in jail with his father. It would be the last time he saw his father, who was in and out of prison himself.

In 2012, McAdoo’s own daughter was seriously injured in a drive-by shooting, which devastated him. He was inspired to create a program through The Last Mile, titled Public Outcry, designed to give a voice to communities affected by violence.

Two months ago, McAdoo was found suitable for parole after 19 years. He is presently awaiting Governor Brown’s mandatory review before he can be released.

This is how he told his story about his struggles and involvement with the street life,

where he lived when he was a young man.

“For many years I never identified myself as a gang member. I figured the definition of a gang member was one who is jumped into a gang and represented the gang color, red for Bloods or blue for Crips. I hung out with a group of individuals in a neighborhood that we claimed as our territory and where we engaged in illegal activity: selling drugs representing a particular neighborhood. [Our] understanding of a gang member was one who identify themselves as a Crip or Blood and who participated in drive-by shootings, as well as beating of other gang members that didn’t represent the same color or neighborhood.

“Growing up in Oakland, I didn’t recognize that drug dealers are the same as gang members. Individuals who sold drugs identified themselves by the neighborhood where they lived. There wasn’t no initiations like the Crips and Bloods. The conflicts between drug dealers were basically over another group attempting to sell drugs in a territory or neighborhood that was established by other drug dealers. This conflict usually led to someone being beat up, robbed, shot or killed.

“After reflecting on my previous criminal lifestyle and reading CGA (Criminal Gangs Anonymous) literature, I came to the realization that there wasn’t much of a difference between Crips, Bloods or drug dealers. They all represented one and the same criminal lifestyle. CGA’s definition of a gang member is, ‘Two or more

individuals with or without a group name, who associate with each other following destructive beliefs and whose behavior, actions and habits are centered around illegal activity.’ This definition provided me the understanding that I was a gang member in the sense of one who hung out with other individuals in a neighborhood where we sold drugs and shared the same criminal mindset.

“Ultimately I became obsessed with my past disrupted lifestyle. The longer I continued to sell drugs, the more I became powerless over my addiction to make money illegally, which was a direct result of my criminal thinking. Also my addiction to this criminal lifestyle caused me to justify my actions by ignoring the fact that I was destroying the lives of addicts and the community of Oakland. CGA calls this ‘Compulsion’ behavior.

“Eventually, my life became unmanageable. I started carrying a gun after being robbed, beat up and shot at by other drug dealers. I adopted a retaliatory mentality and a distorted belief that it was necessary to protect myself and my so-called drug territory from other drug dealers. Over time, I progressed out of control to the point of going from selling drugs to murder and attempted murder.”

“Furthermore, in CGA’s 12 steps, I found step 7 the most interesting. It states, ‘We honestly recognized our shortcomings whenever bad habits surfaced, promptly correcting our thinking and actions.’

“In the Breaking Barriers program, I learned how to



23 year old Kim (Al-Ameen) McAdoo

identify negative thinking patterns that I adopted through distorted beliefs and values. I began examining my old belief system where I once thought that it was OK to carry guns, sell drugs, and break the law. I no longer think this way because I harmed many others due to my out-of-control criminal lifestyle.

“In regard to step 10, ‘we continued daily to take a personal inventory of ourselves, and whenever wrong, had the courage to honestly admit it.’ This step reminds me of my responsibility of being aware of my thinking and feelings. If I am thinking positively then my speech and actions toward others will follow with peaceful and non-threatening behavior. My attitude and perceptions are what determine the outcome of my actions. If by chance I am at fault, I own up to the mistake in behavior or actions and correct the situation immediately. By conducting a daily self-inventory, it keeps me conscious of my thoughts, words and actions and from relapsing back into a lifestyle of crime.

“In conclusion, through the CGA literature I gained an un-



Photo by Sam Hearnes

McAdoo: During 2013 Pat-ten University graduation

derstanding of what makes an individual a gang member. How the components of obsession drove me into the compulsion stage of my addiction to criminal thinking, to where my life progressed out of control. This information has given me the skills to address my previous gang and drug-dealing addicted lifestyle.”

Upon release, McAdoo intends to enroll in San Francisco State University.

# TRUST Food Sale Satisfies Inmates’ Taste Buds

By Angelo Falcone  
Journalism Guild Writer

Almost 600 inmates eagerly lined up for the fundraiser food sale put on by the members of the San Quentin TRUST (Teaching Responsibility Utilizing Sociological Training).

For the first time in nearly a year and a half Project WHAT! and TRUST are designed to help inmates prepare for reentering society upon release.

The option to purchase a 10-piece bucket of *Kentucky Fried Chicken*, an extra-large pizza, freshly baked cookies, and assorted other treats was back on the table for the first time in a year and a half.

Asked on the Line surveyed those in attendance with a few questions: “Which was the one food item that you were most happy to see on the food sale list? What did you like about the food sale? What food item would you like to see on a future food sale?”

Richard Zorns was happy to see *Kentucky Fried Chicken*. “I like both ‘Original’ and ‘Crispy,’” said Zorns. When asked what he liked about the food sale, he replied, “I was just

## Asked On The Line

happy that we were having a food sale.”

For many of the men who stood in line, a food sale meant a tasty alternative, such as pepper jack cheese, honey nut cheerios, and tortilla chips.

Rich Morris wasn’t able to buy anything, but his cellmate shared some food with him. “I like the opportunity to eat something different other than state food or canteen items,” said Morris.

Evan O’Leary was happy that the TRUST food sale offered one of his favorite desserts. “What I liked most about the food sale was that I got my red velvet cake, and I would like to see red velvet cake in future sales,” said O’Leary.

There were varying opinions about what should be sold in future food sales.

Darion Branch said he’d like to see hot chocolate on the food sale menu. Other suggestions included cheesecake, rotisserie chicken and *Carl’s Jr.* hamburgers.

TRUST Fellows operated the food sale and received much praise for their efficiency.

“What I liked most about the TRUST food sale was the speed of the delivery. It was good to have food sales back,” said Sam Johnson, chairman of the Men’s Advisory Council, who was invited to observe the operation of the food sale.

Randy Maluenda, another TRUST Fellow, was also happy about the *KFC* and efficient service but wanted to see two-liter cola sold at a future food sale.

TRUST Vice-Chairman Orlando Harris, another red velvet cake fan, said, “Our food sale ran really quick, but I would like to see fruit and nut medley in a future food sale.”

Fundraising food sales are conducted by the finance committee of San Quentin TRUST and headed by the TRUST executive treasurer.

TRUST Fellow Phil Senegal, a senior member of the finance committee, was in charge of processing the West Block food

sale slips. He was glad to see large bags of tortilla chips on the menu. “Our food sale was efficient, and in the future I will suggest we sell pork ribs, pulled pork and pork carnitas,” said Senegal.

Christopher Scull, a new TRUST Fellow, participated in a food sale for the first time. “I liked that we sold *KFC*, and I was impressed with the level of cooperation in our group. In the future, I would like our group to sell the Costco muffins,” said Scull.

Valeray Richardson, the senior TRUST Fellow in charge of North Block processing, commented, “I was happy that we sold ‘*KFC Crispy*.’ We ran a smooth food sale, but in the future I hope we sell strawberry cheesecake.”

Alexei Ruiz, the TRUST Fellow in charge of H-Unit processing, said, “Of course, I was happy we sold *KFC*, and I had fun working this sale. I enjoyed doing it. In the future, I hope we can bring back avocados and onions.”

Executive Treasurer Juan Arballo was the TRUST Fellow in charge of the food sale, and his leadership was key to the suc-

cess of the sale. More than 626 slips were collected and \$36,297 in sales resulted in a net profit of over \$8,500. Centerforce and Project WHAT! will each receive about \$3,000, and \$2,500 will go toward a charity of the warden’s choosing. “I am happy with how it ran,” said Arballo. “I was trained by secretary Angelo Falcone. I was glad we sold the red velvet cake, and I look forward to seeing strawberry cheesecake.”

March is the second of seven months with 31 days, after January. In 2015, March has five Sundays, five Mondays, and five Tuesdays. Daylight Saving Time began Sun., Mar. 8. The vernal equinox is on Fri., Mar. 20. Saint Patrick’s Day is on Tues., Mar. 17, Saint Joseph’s Day is on Thurs., Mar. 19, the Annunciation of the Lord is on Wed., Mar. 25, and Palm Sunday is on Sun., Mar. 29; California celebrates Cesar Chavez Day on Tues., Mar. 31. March is Irish-American Heritage Month, Women’s History Month, American Red Cross Month, National Frozen Food Month, and National Talk with Your Teen about Sex Month.



# Symposium Focuses on Giving Young Offenders a Better Chance

By Kid CAT Speaks

Movie producer Scott Budnick urges politicians, lawyers, lawmakers, criminal justice advocates, and prison officials to support sound laws to “prevent our youth from being thrown away and forgotten.”

Focusing on young men and women who have been tried and sentenced as adults, Budnick says they should be given an opportunity to educate themselves and positively transform their lives. “They deserve a second chance and should be able to earn parole,” he said. “We must all come together as a society. We can no longer fail them.”

Budnick is founder of the Anti-Recidivism Coalition (ARC) and current board member of the California Board of State and Community Corrections (BSCC).

ARC is an advocacy group that “seeks to reduce crime, decrease the use of incarceration, improve the outcomes of the formerly incarcerated, and increase investment in the people and communities most impacted by crime and incarceration,” its program overview reads.

The BSCC’s mission includes improving “public safety through cost-effective, promising, and evidence-based strategies to manage statewide criminal and juvenile justice populations,” its quarterly progress report reads.

Budnick recently came to a symposium at San Quentin State Prison and met with inmates who began their sentences at a young age.

He listened to inmates talk about the impact of recent legislation that prevents prison officials from sending the youngest inmates to the most violent prisons. They also discussed other legislation that gives inmates who began their sentences as juveniles a chance to have their sentences reviewed after serving between 15 and 25 years.

“This is a unique opportunity for the men to open up about their lives to people involved in making policy choices,” said

## Kid CAT Speaks!

Elizabeth Calvin, senior advocate, Children’s Rights Division, at Human Rights Watch.

Inmate Miguel Quezada, 33, incarcerated since the age of 16, originally had a parole hearing in the year 2040 but now is set for a new hearing in 2023.

“Here I was 18 in a Level 4 (prison) with 40 years in front of me; hope was hard to come by,” Quezada said. “The doubt was always there in the back of my mind. ‘Why try? I am never getting out.’ I refused to give in to that thought. I made a decision to educate myself and become a better person no matter what the future held. But changing my life required doing the personal work and support. I still must earn my place in society.”

Recounting his personal experience of being transferred to a Level 4 maximum security at the age of 19, Tommy Winfrey emphasized the potential of rehabilitating offenders and increasing public safety.

“I went to the most violent prison in the state. There were no programs — only constant violence and lockdowns. My first day on the yard, someone was stabbed. I was surrounded by killers, men who wanted me to become one too.”

The legislation that prevents younger offenders from being sent to the most violent prisons will take effect in July. The legislation, AB 1276, acknowledges that offenders under the age of 22 have a great capacity to rehabilitate, provided the availability of programs and a safe environment.

“You would think that if you sit in a cell 23 hours a day you would think about your crime, but that is not the way it works. San Quentin is different because of its programs. Giving a young inmate the opportunity to come to a place like this would be ideal. Their environment heavily influences them. Thanks to AB 1276, that will change,” Winfrey

concluded.

The symposium broke into small groups, focusing on what the inmates remembered about being sent to the adult correctional system and how the decision was made to send them there.

The decision whether to try a juvenile as an adult is made in a “fitness hearing.”

Prior to 2000, Juvenile Courts had complete discretion to make the decision. However, after 2000, local district attorneys made the decision whether to try a juvenile as an adult.

Former juvenile lifer Frankie Guzman talked about his hearing:

“Fitness trials ask, ‘Are you fit to remain in the Juvenile Court?’ So the burden is on the child to prove that they are suitable to be considered children. The lion’s share of prosecutions as adults are via direct file, meaning that a district attorney has 48 hours to decide whether to prosecute the child as an adult. A DA is someone who has no experience in child development and no weighing in from experts. That is the



Photo by Sam Hearnes

Scott Budnick

problem: a broken system that doesn’t acknowledge the experiences of a child.”

The symposium closed with dialogue about the future of the movement to reform juvenile sentencing laws.

“When it comes to sentencing reform, there must be a general consensus from society and legislators that a certain law and policy is not only not viable but not in accordance with the principles of our nation’s laws and Constitution,” said Michael Romano, director and co-founder of the Three Strikes Project.

“We are hoping to have a bill to allow judges to adopt the same criteria (for eligibility to be tried as an adult) that the Supreme Court uses,” Calvin said.

—Karin Drucker contributed to this article



Photo by Sam Hearnes

Kid CAT’s chairman Tommy Winfrey addresses the crowd about AB 1276 and his experience in a maximum security prison

## Supreme Court to Decide if Juveniles’ Mandatory Life-Without-Parole Ruling Applies Retroactively

By Marcus Henderson  
Journalism Guild Writer

The U.S. Supreme Court will decide if mandatory life-without-parole sentences apply retroactively for juvenile offenders.

The court picked the case of *Toca v. Louisiana* to decide whether the defendant deserves a new sentencing hearing, the New York Times reported.

George Toca, 47, was 17 in 1984 when he was convicted of fatally shooting a friend in a botched armed robbery, the newspaper noted.

Toca’s appeal refers to the 2012 decision of *Miller v. Alabama*, where the high court

ruled that mandatory life sentences for juvenile offenders violated the Eighth Amendment ban on cruel and unusual punishment.

Justice Elena Kagan wrote the majority opinion, expressing that judges and juries must take account of the distinctive characteristics of youth.

Kagan wrote that “mandatory life without parole for a juvenile precludes consideration of his chronological age and its hallmark features — among them, immaturity, impetuosity and failure to appreciate risks and consequences.”

“It prevents taking into account the family and home environment that surrounds him — and from which he cannot usu-

ally extricate himself — no matter how brutal or dysfunctional,” the decision said.

Life without parole sentences remain permissible, but only after individualized consideration, the court decided.

Toca is claiming the *Miller* decision entitles him to a new sentencing hearing. The Louisiana Supreme Court said “no.”

The Louisiana court explained in a different case with the same situation, retroactivity was not required because the *Miller* decision “merely sets forth a new rule of criminal constitutional procedure,” stated the article.

Toca’s lawyers urged the U.S. Supreme Court to hear the case because the Supreme Courts of Illinois, Iowa, Massachusetts,

Mississippi, Nebraska, New Hampshire and Texas have ruled in favor of retroactivity; Louisiana, Michigan, Minnesota and Pennsylvania have rejected retroactivity.

The district attorney for the Orleans Parish, Leon A. Cannizzaro Jr., is quoted as saying there are practical reasons to reject retroactivity. The inquiry called for by the *Miller* decision was too difficult to accomplish decades after the fact, Cannizzaro said.

The district attorney wrote, “Absent a psychological exam conducted prior to his conviction that specifically addressed Toca’s ‘youth and attendant characteristics,’ evidence as to Toca’s ‘diminished culpa-

bility and heightened capacity for change’ and ‘greater prospects for reform’ at the time of his conviction some 30 years ago on April 16, 1985, is likely nonexistent.”

As juvenile lifers wait for the *Toca* decision, there are other decisions that have been decided concerning harsh penalties for youth offenders. In its 2005 *Roper v. Simmons* ruling, the high court eliminated the juvenile death penalty.

In *Graham v. Florida*, the court ruled in 2010 that sentencing juvenile offenders to life without the possibility of parole was also unconstitutional, but only for crimes that did not involve killings.



# DOJ Report Cites High Emotional Distress That Affects Victims of Violent Crime

By Isaiah Thompson-Bonilla  
Journalism Guild Writer

A U.S. Department of Justice special report on the socio-emotional impact of violent crime found that between 2009-2012, 68 percent of victims of serious violent crime incurred socio-emotional distress due to their victimization.

Feelings of moderate to severe distress; significant problems with work or school, such as trouble with a boss, coworkers, or peers; or significant problems with family members or friends,

including more arguments than before the victimization, an inability to trust, or not feeling as close after the victimization are examples of social-emotional distress.

Authors of the report Lynn Langton, Ph.D., and Jennifer Truman, Ph.D., both of the Bureau of Justice Statistics (BJS), used the information gathered by the National Crime Victimization Survey to compile their statistics.

From 2009-2012, the information fostered findings that showed 71 percent of sexual

assault and 70 percent of robbery victims suffer some form of moderate to severe distress. However, 57 percent of victims of aggravated and 46 percent of victims of simple assault experienced moderate to severe distress as a result of their traumatic encounter.

Also, more serious violent victimization committed by an intimate partner (60 percent) or relative (65 percent) resulted in severe distress more often than those committed by a stranger, which came in low at (31 percent) by comparison.

The research concluded that victims experience multiple symptoms covering both emotional and physical problems. Feeling worried and feeling anxious ranked among the two highest emotional effects experienced (72 percent) after a serious or violent crime.

The most physical consequences reported were trouble sleeping (47 percent) and fatigue (34 percent). Victims of serious or violent crime were also found to be more likely to suffer or experience one or more symptoms of emotional or physical distress.

The remainder of the report focused on intimate partner violence. When covering the wide range of different violent acts, more than 80 percent of victims reported that they experienced some form of socio-emotional problems.

Oddly, the presence of a weapon or bodily injury did not consistently produce a higher percentage of socio-emotional distress than those cases without a weapon.

The 54 percent of victims of violent and serious crimes who have experienced socio-emotional distress reported their victimization to authorities (police). What is not known is why only 12 percent of victims who

experienced socio-emotional problems sought and received assistance dealing with their emotional issues due to victimization.

An interesting note in the report was the information gathered concerning victims who were married. Seventy-four percent of victims who were widowed and 67 percent who were divorced or separated experienced socio-emotional problems. However, those who were never married had much lower numbers, 53 percent, and married people was 55 percent. It should be noted that the marital status data is reflective of a multivariate assay (analysis of multiple factors).

When the data was broken down into gender specific categories, the report conveyed that female victims were 2.6 times more likely to experience socio-emotional distress than males. Also, victims ranging in age from 35 to 54 (1.5) and 55 years of age and up (2.1) are more likely to experience socio-emotional distress than those between ages 12 and 17.

As far as race, marital status and education, there was no significant data showing any probability of a socio-emotional distress relationship.

## Fox Report Cites Progress And Challenges of Realignment

By Wesley R. Eisiminger  
Staff Writer

Gov. Jerry Brown met with sheriffs and probation and county administrators at a conference in Sacramento in January to get their thoughts about California's three-year-old Realignment plan.

There was criticism from local sheriffs because their jails would be overcrowded, which would cause them to release inmates early, a report by Lonnie Wong of Fox 40 News noted.

The report also said that the shift from supervising ex-cons went from state parole to county probation departments. Sacramento County added nearly 2,000 probationers to the department's work load.

Realignment shifted the responsibility for housing and supervising certain low-level criminals from the state corrections department to county governments.

Over the last three years, the counties, through trial and error, have used programs to supervise and rehabilitate released inmates and to keep them out of the jails and prisons.

Matthew Cate, executive director of the California Association of Counties, said that criminal justice science has helped counties cope. "We know more about risk, we know a little bit more about treatment, so we're making smarter decisions about who should be in and who can be trusted in the community," said

Cate, the former head of the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation.

Brown said that "People do not want to get hit over the head, they don't want their cars stolen and they don't want their houses broken into, so we have to do something, but we ought to do it smart," the report said.

Brown's recently released 2015-16 budget proposal would allocate \$125 million for county probation departments to be used to supervise released inmates and provide job training, drug treatment and counseling, Fox reported.

Brown also said, "People will do bad things and the only question is do we make it worse by compounding the problem."

## Elderly, Ailing Prisoners on the Rise Throughout U.S. Prison System

*Continued from Page 1*

of course. They're considered on medical parole and assigned a parole agent," Hayhoe added.

If a prisoner manages to improve, for instance from a vegetative or quadriplegic condition, the law allows for return to prison.

Currently in California there are only 65 individuals in this type of care, and the number fluctuates because the prisoners' conditions are usually terminal. According to Hayhoe, there has been an increase in

prisoners' medical parole as the 55 and older population is the fastest-growing segment of prisoners.

"When you think about it, we release hundreds of people per month," Hayhoe added. "It's not anything new. The only thing different is we now provide payment to the nursing home and recoup that money from the federal government. It's expensive to provide that kind of care in a prison."

Outside of California, states have found privatization is cheaper. The state of Virginia

conducted a study to determine whether to keep long-term care inside prison walls or to partner with private nursing homes. It also considered "geriatric release," which allows offenders 60 years or older to apply for early release. The study found that Virginia would spend twice the private nursing home cost of \$66,430.

States spend an average of about \$70,000 per year to incarcerate prisoners 50 or older, about three times the costs to house a younger prisoner. Many prison experts agree that fewer older prisoners return to prison after release. Many states have "compassionate care" laws on the books, which allow the release of an ailing prisoner who, because of health status, is no longer seen as a danger to the community, but this law is rarely used.

Kyle Kaminski, a legislative liaison for the Michigan Department of Corrections, put together a report that estimated the number of prisoners in the 50 and older age bracket has increased almost 50 percent in the past 10 years. While the state housed about 600 of the older prisoners near a hospital facility, the state wanted to determine whether privatizing could better serve the prisoner population.

## Federal Judge Dumps 'Postcards Only' Rule



File photo

Ventura County Jail

By Salvador Solorio  
Journalism Guild Writer

A federal judge has tossed out a Ventura County jail policy limiting prisoners to postcard mail, Courthouse News Service reports.

The September ruling came in a lawsuit filed by Prison Legal News.

The county said it adopted a postcard only regulation in October 2010 to "reduce the risks to the security of our jails and increase the efficient flow of mail to inmates."

The county claimed innocent-looking letters could be used to introduce contraband and send coded information about gang activities.

Prison Legal News argued the county's policy unconstitutionally restricted its distribution and correspondence mailed to prisoners and pre-trial detainees.

U.S. district Judge George

King approved a settlement between the county and Prison Legal News that ended the postcard-only policy.

The jailers can no longer refuse to deliver correspondence, catalogs and subscription order forms. Jailers cannot refuse to deliver material that was Xeroxed, photocopied or printed from the Internet and cannot prohibit inmates from ordering books, magazines or other publications.

Inmates will be allowed publications that contain sexually suggestive content unless "the publications contain images of fully exposed genitalia, buttocks or female breasts and/or graphic depictions of sexual acts."

As part of the settlement, the county agreed to pay Prison Legal News \$350,000 for damages and fees.

Prison Legal News was represented by Ernest Galvan and Brian Vogel.



Photo courtesy of Human Rights Watch

Many elderly prisoners across America who are sick often end up in medical facilities because of their denial for compassionate release



# Art Murals Inside Donovan Correctional Facility



San Diego mural inside R. J. Donovan state prison

Photo art courtesy of Peter Merts



Photo art courtesy of Peter Merts

The painting above is located in the visiting area and is part of the Project PAINT program

# Lifers Uplift Hospitalized Children Through Origami

Continued from Page 1

Valentine's Day. "Just imagining the smiles on the kids' faces, when they receive the (origami) hearts, makes it all worth it," said inmate Upu S. Ama.

The origami event was led by volunteer Jun Hamamoto. She first brought origami to San Quentin in 2012 when she asked prisoners to fold cranes in support of global unity and world peace to be placed on the World Tree of Hope. The Rainbow World Fund (RWF) an Lesbian, Gay, Bi-sexual, Transgender (LGBT) based humanitarian aid organization and the Japanese community came together to sponsor the World Tree of Hope.

The cranes made were signed with positive messages from inmates and displayed on a giant Christmas tree inside San Francisco's City Hall.

The success of the first origami workshop inspired Hamamoto to bring the origami movement inside San Quentin.

Since 2012, she has held countless origami sessions involving different groups in San Quentin, such as the Native Hawaiian Spiritual Group, R.O.O.T.S. (Restoring Our Original True Selves), Buddha Dharma Sangha, Kid C.A.T. (Creating Awareness Together), Free to Succeed, the Native American Culture Group and Project REACH. Hamamoto plans to extend an invitation to more groups.

## THE ORIGAMI LEGEND

As a part of her Japanese heritage, Hamamoto believes that origami is more than an art project. It can have a spiritual meaning or impact. For example, there is a Japanese legend that if a person folds 1,000 origami cranes he'll be granted a wish. During World War II, a little Japanese girl, Sadako Sasaki, contracted cancer from the atomic bomb attack on Hiroshima. The little girl wished to get well from the cancer and



Photo by Sam Hearn

Inmates making the origami cranes that were sent to S.F. City Hall to promote global peace

thereby attempted to fold 1,000 cranes to get her wish. Sadako wrote messages on the wings of the cranes, such as; "I will write peace on your wings, and you will fly all over the world." Sadako got up to 644 cranes before she passed away. Her classmates and friends completed her task, which inspired the creation of The World Tree of Hope. For the inmates it was an opportunity to offer support for the children. "I wanted to give back to the kids," said inmate Adnan Khan. "I understand that receiving something unexpected can uplift a child. It is similar to receiving mail; it brings joy. I hope I can do the same for them." During the origami session, the men were asked to wash their hands and be mindful of the kids' conditions. For instance, no tape or glue were used to make the origami because

they were told tape or glue could negatively affect the children's conditions. "Not only was the origami made with careful focus, it also required discipline and puts me in a meditative state of mind," Khan said. Sharing similar feelings, inmate Nick Lopez said, "When I'm folding origami, it calms my mind. For the few hours that I'm involved, it takes me away from prison. And knowing this goes to the children inspires me to want to do more." Harold Meeks, who attended his second origami workshop, said, "In addition to making hearts, we've also made butterflies to send home to family and friends. But what's most meaningful is it's an opportunity to build on rehabilitation and give back to the community. It is an honor to give and serve someone who is in an unfortunate circumstance."



Photo by Steve Emrick

Origami hearts made by prisoners and given to Oakland's Children Hospital.



# Commending Prisoners Across the State for Good Deeds



A graduate receives his completion certificate

## Pleasant Valley SP's New Substance Abuse Treatment Hailed as Success

By Lt. Ryan Anderson,  
AA/Public Information  
Officer PVSP

A group of men has taken steps to reclaim their lives and tackle substance abuse.

Pleasant Valley State Prison (PVSP) celebrated the first graduation of the Intensive Outpatient-level Substance Abuse Treatment (SAT) Program.

Two dozen inmates participated in the Dec. 10 ceremony and were awarded with a certificate of completion.

PVSP activated the multi-level SAT Program in July 2014 and has had 60 inmates successfully complete the program in the Outpatient or Intensive Outpatient Level.

The program consists of three levels: the Outpatient Level is a three-month program, the Intensive Outpatient is a five-month program and the Modified Therapeutic Community is a six-month program.

The first graduation for the Outpatient Level took place in October 2014 and the first graduation for the Modified Therapeutic Community is expected to take place in January.

"We are a new program here at PVSP that is rapidly gaining popularity within the inmate population. It is exciting to see the change in each inmate who participates in the program and we hope to give them the tools necessary to succeed upon their release back into the community," said Jennifer Cota, Correctional Counselor III and SAT Coordinator.

The success is largely attributed not only to the dedicated contract staff who work with the inmates each day but also to the support of Warden Scott Fraumeni and his executive staff, according to those with the program.

"I commend these men for taking this brave step to learn from their mistakes and enrich their lives," said Warden Fraumeni. "I am confident the lessons learned throughout this program will be remembered for years to come and put the participants on the path to success."

## Inmates Kick Substance Abuse Through First Treatment Program At C. A. C. Facility

By Lt. Ignacio Rivera, A.A.,  
Public Information Officer and Stephanie Lacie,  
Correctional Counselor  
California City Correctional Facility

California City Correctional Facility (CAC), with the collaboration of Phoenix House, held its first graduation ceremony for the inaugural set of inmates to complete the Phoenix House Substance Abuse Treatment Program.

Phoenix House is a 150-day CBI-Substance Abuse Treatment program in which the clients are taught various skills to promote their success in the community upon their release from custody.

The ceremony was held in September. In addition to substance abuse treatment, the clients are provided both anger management and parenting. It is CAC and California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation hope the graduates take these skills and apply them in everyday life. The graduation ceremony contained skits, singing and dancing, and poetry readings.

Correctional Counselor Stephanie Lacy and Warden David Long addressed the graduates with words of encouragement. CAC executive staff, as well as the respective Correctional Counselors attended the ceremony for each of the housing units. Eighty-eight of the original ninety-six participants were able to complete the curriculum-based program, and received certificates of completion of Anger Management, Parenting and Substance Abuse Treatment.



Staff of CBI-Substance Abuse Treatment poses with the 2014 graduating class



121 students wait to receive their diplomas. One of the graduates received an Associate of Arts degree, 12 graduated from the Office Services Program, 14 graduated from the Automotive Program and 90 graduates earned their GED

## Kern Valley State Prison Holds First Graduation Ceremony

*Commencement ceremony honors 121 graduates before a welcome assembly of family, friends, custody staff and prison educators*

By Marshall Denning, A.A.,  
Public Information Officer,  
Kern Valley State Prison

Kern Valley State Prison inmates donned various colored caps and gowns to mark the prison's first graduation.

The first commencement ceremony in August honored 121 graduates before a welcome assembly of family, friends, custody staff and prison educators. The graduation ceremonies all started with the pledge of allegiance led by the Academic Vice Principal Randy Clem and the National Anthem sung by Krystal Mascarin.

"Rehabilitation through Education" was the adopted theme with a quote by Arie Pengovici documented on the Program Brochures which read, "Graduation is only a concept. In real life, every day you graduate. Graduation is a process that goes on until the last day of your life. If you can grasp that, you'll make a difference."

Principal Stacey Hoffman was one of the keynote speakers. He encouraged the graduates not to think of a GED as a second class accomplishment. He said many people, some of them famous, have received their GEDs such as actor/comedian Bill Cosby, actor Nicholas Cage, boxer Oscar De La Hoya, Wendy's restaurant founder Dave Thomas and the Rapper 50 cent, who even got his GED while in jail.

One of the graduates received an Associate of Arts Degree, 12 graduated from the Office Services program, 14 graduated from the automotive program and 90 graduates earned their GEDs.

Many staff and students were given the opportunity to speak to encourage a positive rehabilitative attitude through the various academic and career technical educational opportunities present within the institutions of the CDCR.

One of the graduates received an Associate of Arts Degree, 12 graduated from the Office Services program, 14 graduated from the automotive program and 90 graduates earned their GEDs.

Many staff and students were given the opportunity to speak to encourage a positive rehabilitative attitude through the various academic and career technical educational opportunities present within the institutions of the CDCR.



The CCWF graduating class of 2014 comprises 38 inmates who received Associate of Arts Degrees



A staff posing with the graduating class of 2014



Vice Principal Jennifer Baldwin speaks to Facility A and Facility B inmates receiving vocational completion certificates, GED certificates and high school diplomas at California Correctional Center



Heinz Meisnitzer, Dr. Gloria Kalisher and Patrie Grace meet with a group of inmates at Correctional Training Facility, Soledad



# Honoring the Life of Judith Puchner Breen

By Aly Tamboura  
Contributing Writer

Judith Puchner Breen, beloved San Quentin volunteer whose Video Literacy Project and passion for teaching touched the lives of many prisoners, died Jan. 17.

Breen earned a B.A. from Swarthmore College and a Ph.D. from Cornell University. Her extensive career teaching English literature began at Temple University in Philadelphia and finished at San Francisco State University, where she taught from 1969 to 2006. After retiring from public teaching, she brought her smiling personality and instructing experience to San Quentin through the Prison University Project.

“The word on the yard was Judy Breen was a tough teacher,” said Bobby Evans, former student and Video Literacy Project coordinator. “With Judy, her students knew there was impartial treatment – a student is a student, no matter where you are or what your situation.”

Indeed, Breen was known for her toughness in grading English papers as well as for her devotion to spreading literacy throughout the prison population. Her passion for teaching and her understanding of the power and freedom found in literature made the men at San Quentin perfect subjects for her empathy and unique style of teaching.

Breen could be just as tough as she was compassionate. She would hand out books to prisoners with the expecta-

tion that they would complete the books – no exceptions, no excuses – and have well-thought-out responses.

This passion for commanding prisoners and rousing them to read sparked her creation of the Video Literacy Project. Breen interviewed prisoners on video about their experiences after completing a book-reading assignment. The interviews were then played on the San Quentin institutional television channel for viewing by the entire prison population.

“Her time spent at San Quentin was in many ways the most meaningful work of her life,” said Molly Breen, one of her two surviving daughters.

When Breen was not teaching, she was an avid bird-watcher and gardener, according to her family.

“It is no longer a mystery why we became such close friends. I did not know of her love for birds and gardening,” Evans said, after learning of Breen’s passing. “I too get so much from gardening and the animals it attracts.”

After Breen departed from her volunteer work in 2011 due to health issues, Evans began a beautification project, planting flowers and other plants around the San Quentin education complex where Breen spent her time teaching. After the warmest January in California’s recorded history, the plants in the garden were in full bloom the day Breen passed.

For many of the men at San Quentin, the spirit of Breen



File Photo

Judy Breen inside the media room, talking about her teaching experiences

will live in the garden, the legacy of the Video Literacy Program she created, and the world she opened up to them through her promotion of literacy.

“Judy is a friend, and we love her with warm memories of her presence here with us,” Evans said. “She was a powerful influence in her home, her career, and here at San Quentin. She would always ask, ‘What can I do?’ I would respond, ‘Judy, being here with us is doing enough. You taught classes, created the Video Literacy Project, and talked to the men.’”

Breen is survived by her two daughters, three grandchildren and five beloved nieces and nephews.



Photo by Sam Hearnes

Bobby Evans gardening in front of the education gate

## Christmas Banquet Breaks Bread for Nearly 200 Prisoners Inside the Protestant Chapel

By Juan Haines  
Managing Editor

San Quentin has many different organizations that minister to the men through religion. The organizations hold banquets every year, each for their specific religious affiliation, to acknowledge the impact they have had.

San Quentin Chaplain Mardi Jackson emceed the annual Christmas banquet, an event for the Protestant affiliated organizations that has been held for decades. This past December, nearly 200 diners broke bread together in the Protestant Chapel, praising each other’s yearly accomplishments.

At that banquet, inmate Chris Scull spoke of his experiences in several of the self-help programs. He has been a part of Victim Offender Education Group, VOEG’s Next Step, and is currently enrolled in the Addiction Recovery Counseling program, training to be a drug counselor.

“I believe that a person cannot conquer the power of addiction until they are able to teach it,” Scull said. “That’s why I want to be a drug counselor.”

Scull arrived at San Quentin in 2008 and is serving a life

term with a chance of parole this year.

Chaplain Jackson opened the evening with a blessing, before presenting Certificates of Appreciation to volunteers.

“It is a blessing and an honor. This is truly a family,” said one of the members of Cornerstone Ministries while accepting the certificate.

When volunteer Ilene Gilbert was awarded her certificate, Chaplain Jackson praised her, saying, “This is a woman who labored here for more than 20 years and asked for nothing. A lot of the table coverings before you, she made herself. I have contributed a little, but she’s contributed a lot.”

Referring to the two Death Row ministers in attendance, Chaplain Jackson said, “They come in here when it’s rainy, cold, even when they’re not feeling well. I know the Lord looks down on these men with favor.”

When Linda Jackson and members of the Community Presbyterian Church received their certificates, Linda said, “It seems funny to be leaving church to go to church, but that’s what we’re doing, bringing you with us.”

As members of the local Baptist church in Tiburon received

their certificates, their pastor spoke with tears streaming down his face. “It is the highlight of our lives to come here. My God is a rock in a wary land,” he said.

Hillside Covenant, a suburban church in Walnut Creek, donated dozens of irons to San Quentin so that the men can press their clothes and go to church looking neat.

Referring to the wide diversity of race and culture in the chapel, one speaker said, “It is the closest picture of heaven — all the different people and different backgrounds.”

“I feel like I’m coming home,” said Al Featherstone, a facilitator of a self-help group called IMPACT. “They say you cannot

change, but every time I come in here and go out, I prove society a liar.”

Christian creative writing teacher Kathleen Jackson took the stage with her students to talk about the group’s anthology, *Bind the Testimony*.

“Most of them were good men, until bad choices turned their lives out,” Jackson said of the 19 men who wrote personal stories about their conversion to Christianity.

The idea for *Bind the Testimony*, Jackson said, came from inmate James Metters. One of her close friends helped her get the anthology published.

“This book is about who God is,” Metters said, “God came to take something that man has

thrown away and shined it up and made it brand-new.”

Music for the event was provided by inmates David Jassy, vocals and guitar, John Holiday on congas, and Greg Dixon and Albert Flagg on keyboards

“This year, it was more organized,” Dixon said. “People really prepared themselves for live music instead of CDs. I get my blessings from the Lord, Mardi Jackson, and Brother Holloway. I allow myself to be used in any way they see fit. That’s how I get my blessings. It’s about us worshipping together. I had to learn how to do that.”

The meal for the night was prepared by inmate John Parratt and his dedicated crew of inmate workers.

### Website Offers Help to Families of Those Incarcerated

A new and free search engine, [www.PrisonPath.com](http://www.PrisonPath.com), provides information for the public. The site helps users in clarifying confusion and fear of the unknown when a loved one is charged and arrested, or sentenced to imprisonment in the United States. PrisonPath provides information including the ability to find a person incarcerated, visitation rules, contact numbers, and more about every American prison or jail. It also allows families and friends of inmates to communicate with each other on a specific page.



By Larry Stiner, Jr.  
Contributing Columnist

The man who fathered me said I was his champ. He told me I deserved that title because I had stood strong in the boxing ring of life. I had gone toe-to-toe with a challenge that not many others would have willingly accepted.

He praised me for becoming the legal guardian of my much younger siblings and for being a stabilizing presence in their lives when legal circumstances made it impossible for him to be. I deflected his compliments and expressed why I felt that he was the real champ.

I told him the title was appropriate because he had sacrificed so much, including his freedom, in the fight to create a way for his children to have better lives. In the end, we settled on being co-champions as we reflected upon the many years we had fought together in attempting to end his lengthy incarceration.

On Jan. 11 my father and I yelled in excitement, breathed a deep sigh of relief and took our imaginary boxing gloves off. For the first time in more than two decades, we could finally stop fighting for the freedom that had eluded him.

No longer did we need to guard

# Undisputed True Champions

## An ‘OG’s’ Perspective



Photo courtesy of the Stiner family

Larry Stiner Jr. unites with half-sisters Kishana, Latanya, Natisha and Taminaia, and his half-brothers Lige and MTume, after their father Watani Stiner paroled from San Quentin

our emotions, in order to protect our hearts from the punishing blows of denial repeatedly delivered by the Parole Board. Each of the first 10 hearings with the Board of Prison Terms had been like a round of defeat in a hard-

fought boxing match. We would jab with letters of support from family members and friends, before following up with punching combinations of job offers and stable living arrangements.

Still, the board always seemed

to block the punches and counter with something that knocked out our hopes. We'd find ourselves not only fighting for my father's freedom, but also fighting off the painful feelings of frustration and hopelessness. This pain

hit us each time my father's collect phone call connected us, and he uttered the words, "Once again they claim that I'm not yet suitable for parole."

On that recent Sunday morning in January, however, all of those seemingly ever-present feelings of disappointment and sadness instantly disappeared. The 21-year fight had finally come to an end. My father was released from San Quentin State Prison at last, and we were over the moon with pure joy. Thankfully, we could step outside of the fictitious boxing ring and celebrate like we had dreamed of doing since the cell bars first closed on him back in 1994.

So much time had passed. My pop had been escorted into prison at the age of 46 with a head full of thick, black hair, worn in an Afro style. He walked out of the penitentiary, just a few weeks shy of his 67th birthday, with short graying hair and a smile that lit up the world.

He had made it to the other side of the wall, and on that other side was a beautiful place where freedom, family and friends had been waiting for him — for what seemed like forever.

The long and hard fight was finally over. Now, we could stand side-by-side in victory as true champions.

# Revisiting San Quentin's Notorious Seventies Era

By A. Kevin Valvardi  
Journalism Guild Writer

**Sept. 17, 1971**—Mattress Factory Clerk Robert L. Higgs collapses from smoke inhalation while attempting to remove a burning cart full of Styrofoam believed to have been deliberately set ablaze.

**Sept. 17, 1971**—The California Apprenticeship Council adopts new regulation to increase employment of ethnic minority groups.

**Sept. 17, 1971**—San Quentin's sheet metal shop workers complete construction of new ventilator for North Block.

**Jan. 28, 1972**—California's Adult Authority passes a measure that would require all prisoners to be interviewed within six months of imprisonment in order to establish a tentative parole date.

**Jan. 28, 1972**—Former San Quentin Warden Clinton T. Duffy continues his push for prison reforms.

**Jan. 28, 1972**—Educational program continues for prisoners in maximum-security control units to receive high school diplomas.

**Jan. 28, 1972**—Prisoner Clyde Hall and three other inmates were placed in isolation

## BACK IN THE DAY



File photo

Inside San Quentin's North Block

after Hall was discovered at the bottom of a large hole in the south block basement during an apparent escape attempt.

**Jan. 28, 1972**—Canine "Rebel" Adams becomes the official mascot of the San Quentin News.

**Jan. 28, 1972**—Group psychotherapy is offered to San Quentin prisoners as self-improvement measure to improve

mental health.

**Jan. 28, 1972**—Skyline Gym introduces new boxing contract.

**Feb. 4, 1972**—New West Block canteen project known as Canteen-West proves successful.

**Feb. 4, 1972**—New S.A.T.E. program provides educational opportunities and support for San Quentin's African-American men.

**Feb. 4, 1972**—The San Quentin Pirates hand U.C. Medical Center their third straight varsity basketball loss.

**March 3, 1972**—The California Supreme Court rules the death penalty unconstitutional, allowing 107 men and women to be released from death rows at two institutions.

**March 3, 1972**—San Quentin's population drops to 1,975, its lowest in over 50 years.

**March 3, 1972**— "Psycho," one of East Block's resident cats, survives free fall from fifth tier that occurred while stalking winged prey.

**March 3, 1972**—The director of California's Adult Authority temporarily suspends all community release passes.

**March 3, 1972**—Bob Roberts takes over duties as San Quentin News' new sports editor.

# New 'Blueprint' Aims to Reduce Mass Incarceration

By Chung Kao  
Staff Writer

A rare detailed plan to slash the 2.3 million population in the United States prisons and jails was published recently in a special issue of the journal *Criminology and Public Policy*. The author is law professor Michael Tonry of the University of Minnesota. He laid out what he called a "blueprint" to

remodel the American sentencing system to end mass incarceration.

"The severe sentencing laws enacted in the 1980s and 1990s must be repealed or greatly cut back" and "meaningful limits, scaled to offense seriousness, must be placed on the lengths of lawful sentences," said Tonry. He proposes:

- Three strikes and mandatory minimum sentence laws must

be repealed or at least narrowed in scope.

- Life without parole sentences must be eliminated.
- Repeal "truth in sentencing" laws, i.e., those reducing or eliminating good-time credits for certain crimes, such as California Penal Code Sections 2933.1 and 2933.2.
- Sentences must match the seriousness of the crimes. Tonry

proposes minimum sentences of one, two, four, six, eight or 10 years for serious offenses and longer for a small number of very serious cases.

- Sentences must be embodied in sentencing guidelines established by state panels.
- Every state should have a parole guideline system.
- Every state should cut its incarceration total in half by 2020.

- Inmates generally should be eligible for parole after serving five years, three years for those 35 or older.

However, Tonry also doubts that there is current political will to support his blueprint. He notes that there have been only "minor, marginal" amendments to sentencing laws by the states despite the high rates of incarceration.



# Balancing Prison’s High Cost With Fines, Fees, and Restitution Payments

By Charles David Henry  
Journalism Guild Writer

To offset the cost of imprisonment, the criminal justice system imposes fines, fees, and restitution payments. The system can burden an offender with a financial obligation at every stage of the legal process, a new report says.

The report lists two primary justifications underlining these obligations: One is to punish the offender, and the other is to generate revenue for the criminal justice system.

“Legal systems impose fines, fees, and restitution requirements as a punitive measure intended to deter offenders from future crime,” while court-imposed fines are intended to punish offenders or to provide financial compensation to victims, according to an August report by the John Jay College of Criminal Justice.

Some jurisdictions spend more money on “debt collection and punishing offenders

who are behind on their payments than they are likely to recoup from enforcing the financial obligations of ex-offenders,” the report noted.

In a study prepared by the Brennan Center of the 15 states with the highest prison populations, researchers discovered that individuals who cannot pay their debt all at once are charged with added poverty penalties that include late fees, interest and payment plan fees.

California, Florida, Ohio, and Texas charge public defender fees, “which could include a fee to apply for a public defender, fees for the cost of legal defense, and various administrative court fees,” the report noted.

Riverside County requires financially solvent inmates to pay \$142 per day for their incarcerations.

According to the report, “Florida has raised many of its existing fees by \$10 to \$50 and enacted 20 different fees for individuals ensnared in the

criminal justice system.”

In addition, “These added fees include requirements that defendants pay for the cost of prosecution (minimum \$50 charge), various surcharges that vary by offense type (a low of \$15 for criminal traffic violations and a high of \$151 for assault and battery convictions) and charges to inmates for subsistence cost while incarcerated,” the report said.

Texas charges a fee for judicial fund court costs (\$15) as well as requiring offenders to pay a string of charges, including an arrest fee (\$5), a warrant fee (\$50) and a time payment fee (\$25), the report revealed.

“Restitution is one of the few mechanisms by which the criminal justice system seeks to acknowledge and address the direct impact of crime on victims,” the report said.

In many courts, offenders must “Provide financial compensation to the victim for loss or damage to their property, lost income due to missing

work, direct medical expenses, and psychological services, among other things,” the report said.

Restitution debt is particularly concerning to the criminal justice because “The majority of offenders lack the financial resources to pay their debts.” The report said restitution comprises the largest proportion of criminal debt for individual offenders.

According to the report, “Nonpayment of restitution obligations is inherently problematic. The Mandatory Victims Restitution Act requires federal courts to order restitution without consideration of an offender’s capacity to pay.”

“Despite the inability of most offenders to pay their restitution obligations, criminal justice officials must attempt to collect this debt. Most collection methods have not been effective and result in extensive administrative costs,” it was reported.

It was also reported that,

“Approximately 70 percent of incarcerated males between the ages of 33 and 40 are fathers, and the majority owe child support arrearages that they are unable to pay.”

In many situations, “Non-custodial parents enter prison owing an average of more than \$10,000 in child support debt,” the report said. They stand to accumulate nearly \$20,000 in additional debt by the completion of their sentence.

“States have some discretion to prioritize offender debt payments.” However, federal law “requires that child support obligations be given preference over all other debt,” according to the report.

“An estimated 10 million people owe more than \$50 billion in debt resulting from their involvement in the criminal justice system. ... The majority of offenders may never be able to pay off their criminal debt because they are poor both before and after their incarceration,” the report states.

# Food and Electronic Vendor Companies Profit From Inmates

By David Eugene Archer Sr.  
Journalism Guild Writer

“There are 2 million-plus inmates incarcerated in America at this time. We haven’t tapped every one of them, but we’ve seen more sales every year,” said Ed Michael, general manager of *Swintec*, a New Jersey company that has offered electronic typewriters to inmates since 2003.

According to a June 24 *NBC* News report, U.S. inmates are increasingly buying electronics such as MP3 players and flat-screen televisions – spending about \$750 million annually on

these gadgets. Appliances built for prisoners are often in transparent plastic, so guards can inspect them for drugs, weapons or contraband.

*Swintec* sells as many as 5,000 typewriters annually. They sell in San Quentin as well as prisons in 46 states, including Sing Sing in New York and Leavenworth in Kansas, Michael said.

The company’s highest-end typewriters contain enough memory to store 50 pages of text, making them word processors – without Internet access. Prices for these machines range from \$192 to \$748. “We

don’t foresee an end to this,” Michael said.

The corrections-approved electronics include name brands such as *Sony* and *Casio*. Items include headphones, radios, and 15-inch flat-screen TVs.

Sales to prisoners in catalogs are modified to be “prison safe” i.e. “see-through” and with “security screws,” according to the website for *Union Supply Direct*, a company based in Rancho Dominguez.

*Keefe Group* has offices in 10 cities and calls itself “the nation’s leading supplier” of prison-ready products and elec-

tronics that run the gamut from televisions, typewriters, CD players, portable radios, fans, and clocks.

*Keefe Group* cites security concerns, preferring to stay out of the media, said spokesman Paul Scherer.

U.S. prisoners, this year, will purchase an estimated \$750 million in clear electronics, according to Lucas Isakowitz, an industry analyst at *IBISWorld*, a market research organization.

“The prison electronics market will likely become larger in the coming years as states are allowing prisoners access to more electronics such as electronic tablets,” Isakowitz said.

Isakowitz cited seven states (Ohio, North Dakota, Georgia, Louisiana, Virginia, Michigan, and Washington) that now allow prisoners to purchase mini-tablet computers.

While some people on the outside might disagree with giving inmates access to tech toys, *Swintec’s* Michael contends this growing market is helping convicts improve themselves.

“They (the gizmos) give inmates something good to do on a daily basis, rather than sit there and be idle...” he said.

A famous owner of a *Swintec* typewriter, according to company officials, was Stanley “Tookie” Williams, an ex-Los Angeles gang member.

Convicted of four murders, he wrote a series of anti-violence books. In 2005, he was executed by the state of California. Archbishop Desmond Tutu lauded Williams’ writing.

“Narcotica,” a novel Daniel Genis created in prison, was also tapped out on a *Swintec*. It will be published later this year.

This introduces the reader to an alternate version of the world, one in which drugs, rather than alcohol, have become

the legal and socially accepted inebriant of choice.

Genis was addicted to heroin before his incarceration in New York state prisons. He was sober when his sentence began in 2004.

“I wrote the book in solitary confinement. They gave you five pieces of paper a week in there. So the book was written on ... paper, plus pieces of cardboard and on the backs of official forms ... all I did was write,” Genis said. “When I brought all those papers out, it just looked like a horrible mess.”

He later typed it up on the typewriter. Genis, 35, now lives in Brooklyn. He said that the old-fashioned typewriter can still crank up potent profit.

He claims some inmates use them for gambling operations – typing tiny betting stubs to distribute for sports wagers.

However, other prisoners complete legal work in their cells. “Now, there is a great perk to that,” Genis said. Though not allowed to do legal work for others, it happens anyway.

For a jailhouse lawyer, the typewriter is a tool for earning money. “They earn ... couple hundred bucks for every legal brief they write, and the typewriter pays for itself.”

In this black market of a prison, those legal briefs are paid in packs of cigarettes or by Western Union. Someone on the street pays real money into someone else’s account, Genis said.

Electronic typewriters in prison may mean income for some. What they are not, Genis said, is trouble. “Nobody ever takes apart a typewriter to make a weapon because the thing is just too expensive,” he said. “... the kind of people who have typewriters are not the kind ... who need weapons.”

# Actor Pushes to Reduce Mass Incarceration

By Rahsaan Thomas  
Staff Writer

Actor Michael K. Williams has joined the *American Civil Liberties Union’s* battle to curb mass incarceration.

“We’re at a critical moment in this country, and I’m excited to work with the *ACLU* to push for that change,” said Williams.

*ACLU* has started a campaign that it hopes will reduce incarceration in America by 50 percent.

“Over the last 40 years, this country has been locking up far too many people – mostly black and brown men – for far too long, and for things like mental illness and drug dependency. It’s just not working,” said Williams in a statement urging people to sign a pledge supporting *ACLU’s* “Campaign to End Mass Incarceration.”

Williams played Chalky White in the *HBO* show *Boardwalk* and Omar Little in *The Wire* on *HBO*. He grew up in a New York City housing project and has seen the criminal justice



Michael K. Williams: ‘We need better solutions’ to fix the criminal justice system

system devastate whole communities.

Mass incarceration bloats our prisons and wastes trillions of taxpayer money, Williams said. It cuts people off from employment, housing, and family stability, which leads to a cycle of failure, he added.

“We need better solutions ... For example: shifting our country’s response to drug and alcohol addiction away from the criminal justice system and toward more effective, treatment-based solutions would be a great start,” said Williams.

“Change in our justice system is long overdue – and momentum is on our side. Will you join us and sign the pledge?” asked Williams.



# Fear, Failure in Criminal Justice System Viewed

**By Juan Haines**  
**Managing Editor**

*The Bet*, (1889) by Anton Chekhov, uses a philosophical argument about exploitation, greed, overconfidence, fear, and failure in a debate about whether a modern society should use the death penalty or life imprisonment as a punishment.

**CHEKHOV WRITES**

*Capital punishment kills a man at once, but lifelong imprisonment kills him slowly. Which executioner is the more humane, he who kills you in a few minutes or he who drags the life out of you in the course of many years?*

While the plot explores the long-term effects of incarceration, *The Bet* also probes into how people treat each other and see themselves.

A wager is proposed: How much isolation could a man take? Could a young man of modest means withstand 15 years of solitary confinement? If he could, a banker of ample means would award him \$2 million.

For someone who's never spent a day locked up, Chekhov's bet may seem like something worth trying. However *The Bet* smartly gets around this by qualifying who gets locked up and the circumstances thereof:

*...voluntary confinement is a great deal harder to bear than compulsory. The thought that you have the right to step out in liberty at any moment will poison your whole existence in prison.*

Angela Davis addresses how individuals think about prisons



Anton Chekhov

in her 2003 book, *Are Prisons Obsolete?*

*We take prisons for granted but are often afraid to face the realities they produce. After all, no one wants to go to prison. Because it would be too agonizing to cope with the possibility that anyone, including ourselves, could become a prisoner, we tend to think of the prison as disconnected from our own life.*

Who in their right mind would want to subject themselves to 15 years of solitary confinement, like the young man in *The Bet*?

When imagining "solitary confinement" one generally pictures a person sitting in a darkened cell with no company. It is being utterly alone. It's an existence where sensory deprivation is maximized. No light. No sound. No physical contact with another human being. It is a bleak existence.

Technically there is no such place in California prisons. But in reality sensory deprivation

## BOOK REVIEW

still exists in various levels. It's a penalty that rule-breakers within the prison must pay.

The objective and result of prison as an institution is scrutinized by Michel Foucault in *Discipline & Punish: The Birth of the Prison*, (1977).

*The general form of an apparatus intended to render individuals docile and useful, by means of precise work upon their bodies, indicated the prison institution, before the law ever defined it as the penalty 'par excellent.'*

The convict knows that when the bars are pulled shut, there's no way out of the prison cell. It's time to do the time. They enter a state in which they accept their punishment and become ready to repent their crimes.

The young man in *The Bet* comes to terms with himself, well before the 15 years of sol-

itary confinement is over. "Fifteen years imprisonment taught him to sit still."

During the same 15-year span, the banker loses his wealth through speculation. As the day the banker must honor his bet approaches, he becomes scared. Fear drives him to think of ways to avoid his fate, including murder.

The banker's overconfidence and desire to play with the life of the young man shows that over time, anything can happen and a person's perception of himself and society can change.

In the end, the argument about whether the death penalty is an appropriate form of punishment in civil society or whether long-term incarceration or solitary confinement serves a purpose is lost in *The Bet*, for the young man loses all interest in the ma-

terial world while the banker is reduced to a pitiful and desperate individual.

So, what are prisons designed to accomplish?

In *Class, Race & Hyper-incarceration in Revanchist America*, (2010), Loïc Wacquant argues:

*Instead of getting sidetracked into investigations of the crime-punishment (dis)connection, one must recognize that the prison is not a mere technical implement of government designed to stem offending, but a core state capacity devoted to managing dispossessed and dishonored populations.*

Yet ironically, by the end of Chekhov's story, it is the banker who becomes dispossessed and dishonored, not the man in solitary confinement.

*The Bet* is a short story that I encourage people to read and then give their feedback. If you're incarcerated and want a copy of it, I'll be happy to send one so we can hear what you think.

## Last of the Mohicans: Who Is Really the Last Man Standing?

## MOVIE REVIEW

### Prison Switches To Solar Power

**By Adnan Khan**  
**Journalism Guild Writer**

A California state prison and a state hospital have switched on solar power, reports the Central Valley Business Times.

Pleasant Valley State Prison and Coalinga State Hospital installed solar power as part of the state's effort to conserve cost and energy efficiency, the Times reports.

"Our use of solar energy is projected to reduce greenhouse gas CO2 emissions by more than 61,000 metric tons in 2014 and will save taxpayers approximately \$78 million in energy costs over the next 20 years," said Deborah Hysen, acting director of facility planning, construction and management for the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation, the article adds.

Solar is expected to provide 24 percent of the hospital's electricity during the first year, reports the Fresno Bee. The projects can generate up to 3.22 megawatts of electricity, as part of the state's efforts to utilize clean technology in the fight against climate change, the article states.

*The Last of the Mohicans* is a musket and hatchet, arrow-packed love story set in British-controlled America.

Nathaniel (Daniel Day-Lewis) is a frontiersman whose main loyalty is to his adopted Mohawk tribe. But when he falls in love with an aristocratic woman named Cora (Madeleine Stowe), he's drawn into a war between the French and the English.

Nathaniel, his Mohawk brother and his father Chingachgook (Russell Means) are only interested in protecting fellow settlers and living as free from government control as they can. In contrast, Magua (Wes Studi) from the Huron tribe seeks to avenge his dead family by killing British Colonel Monro and his daughters Cora and Alice (Jodhi May). The plot is driven forward by Magua's blood lust, Nathaniel and Cora's love, and war between two governments.

When the SQ Reviews members sat down to discuss the film, it became clear that none of us liked the choice of the actor as the central character of the movie. Though the movie never portrays Nathaniel as a native-born Mohican, the fact that he is the protagonist in a movie about the last members of a Native American tribe proved problematic for many.



Artwork courtesy of MARVEL

Juan Meza, who is of Apache descent, compared *The Last of the Mohicans* to *Dances with Wolves*, and said the problem with *The Last of the Mohicans* is that the movie reverses the classic roles of the hero and the victim.

"It's the *Dances with Wolves* effect," Aaron Taylor says, and a new term is born. Everyone chuckles, then Taylor continues. "I loved the movie with the exception of choosing Day-Lewis as the hero. I loved it for the action scenes, historical context. I loved Magua. He had some of the best lines in the movie about destroying a race of people — he reminded me of General Zod in *Man of Steel*."

"Sounds like someone needs some Restorative Justice," Emile DeWeaver says,

referring to the need for forgiveness and reconciliation between conflicting cultural groups.

"What about Magua?" Rahsaan Thomas asks. "Was he an example of becoming what you hate? He went on the war path killing women and children because his kids were killed and wife taken."

"He did nothing wrong," Meza insists, rocking forward in his seat. "He was a hero. He was out to destroy everything that didn't belong there."

"Why was it okay for Magua to decide what belonged there, but we condemn the British government for deciding what did and didn't belong in America?" DeWeaver asks. He likes to play Devil's advocate.

What if somebody broke into your house?" Meza asks. "What would you do to protect your family?"

"Magua's family was dead," DeWeaver says. "Revenge was no nobler than the English deciding that they would make the world England for its own good. Don't get me wrong, Native Americans had the moral high ground. But framing the issue around who is right or wrong is the problem. It's this dichotomy of us versus them."

Overall, we rated the movie an average of 2 out of 5 dinner cookies.

Contributors: *Rahsaan Thomas, Emile DeWeaver, Aaron Taylor, Juan Meza*



**1. Sacramento**—Ralph Michael Yeoman, 66, died while awaiting execution at San Quentin State Prison for a 1988 murder in Sacramento County, reports *The Associated Press*. Yeoman was sentenced to death in 1990 for the first-degree murder, kidnap and robbery of 73-year-old Doris Horrell. Since capital punishment was reinstated in 1976, 13 California inmates have been executed, while 66 have died from natural causes and 23 by suicide, the *AP* reports.

**2. Nevada**—Elko County now permits the sheriff to charge detainees for food and medical care. The county jail charges \$6 a day for meals, \$10 for each doctor visit and \$5 for initial booking into the jail. Those without funds would accrue a negative balance even after they are released.

**3. Texas**—State prison reforms have eliminated the need to build 17,000 more beds, saving taxpayers some \$3 billion, reports Chuck DeVore of the Austin-based *Texas Public Policy Foundation*. DeVore said the reforms have been achieved without reducing sentences.

**4. Dallas**—Police officials report 10 consecutive years of crime reduction in the city. According to Police Department numbers, violent crime has dropped 50 percent since 2003. Murders dropped from 154 in 2012 to 142 in 2013. In 2003, there were 226 murders in the city. Burglaries and thefts were also down. However, sexual assaults went up 13 percent in 2013 after significant drops



during the last 10 years.

**5. Missouri**—A federal appeals court ruled that “if the inmates’ lawyers can’t point to a more humane execution than lethal injection – such as hanging or firing squad – they are not entitled to discover more about the pharmacy hired by Missouri to make the drugs for the injections,” reports Jeremy Kohler of the *St. Louis Post-Dispatch*.

**6. Chicago**—Homicides fell 18 percent from 503 in 2012 to 415 in 2013, according to *The Christian Science Monitor*. Shootings

dropped 24 percent.

**7. Columbus, Ohio**—The inmate population is projected to reach a record 51,601 by June 30, 2014, reports *Cleveland.com*. That figure is 4,100 more than officials predicted in 2012. By 2019, the population is expected to reach 53,484. As of March 2, 2015, Ohio’s inmate population was 50,166.

**8. Charleston, W.Va.**—The state was seeking to send as many as 400 inmates now in its jails to an out-of-state private prison in Beattyville, Kentucky, owned

by Corrections Corporation of America, according to *West Virginia MetroNews Network*. CBS affiliate WOWK reported on Jan. 26, 2015, that West Virginia officials said they will not house inmates out of state.

**9. Montgomery, Ala.**—As a result of “a history of unabated staff-on-prisoner sexual abuse and harassment,” as reported by the U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ), Alabama is bringing in a nationally recognized consulting group to implement reforms, reports *The Associated Press*.

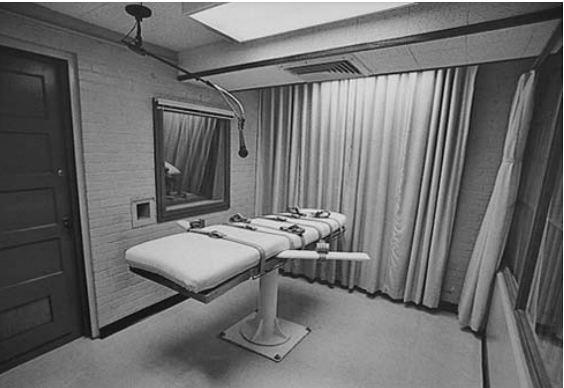
The DOJ report claimed guards “assaulted inmates, coerced inmates into sex, inappropriately watched inmates in the showers and bathrooms and were verbally abusive to inmates,” according to the *AP*.

**10. Cranston, R.I.** —The Americans Civil Liberty Union (ACLU) of Rhode Island has filed suit against the city of Cranston, claiming that the city’s redistricting plan is counting incarcerated people in its prison as if they are all residents of Cranston, reports the *ACLU*. The lawsuit alleges, “Because those incarcerated people were counted as Cranston residents, three voters in the prison’s district have as much voting power as four voters in every other city district, according to Census Bureau data.”

**11. Vermont**—Of the state’s approximately 2,000 incarcerated people, the private prison firm Corrections Corporation of America (CCA) houses 450 inmates in Kentucky and 30 in Arizona. The state authorized up to \$61.7 million from 2011 to 2015 to house Vermonters in private prisons, according to *Rutland Herald* and *Times Argus Newspapers*.

**12. New York City**—Columbia University students are asking its administration to divest university investments of roughly \$8 million in the Corrections Corporation of America, reports *The Activist Lives for Knowledge*, a social justice platform at Columbia University. The group is circulating a letter, which can be found by emailing [columbia-prisondivest@gmail.com](mailto:columbia-prisondivest@gmail.com).

# Approximately 10 Counties Responsible For a Quarter of U.S. Executions



Inside Harris County’s Death Row

**By Isaiah Thompson-Bonilla**  
Journalism Guild Writer

The *National Journal* has released a report on the death penalty showing that there are approximately 10 counties responsible for one quarter of the executions in U.S. prisons.

Dustin Volz, author of the article, placed a huge emphasis on the state of Texas, where four out of 254 counties have accounted for nearly half of the state’s executions. Though state governments are responsible for implementing the executions, death sentences are decided at the local government’s judicial level.

One of the main reasons that Harris County, Dallas County,

Tarrant County, and Bexar County account for nearly half of the state’s executions in Texas is due to the population of those counties. Harris County has over 4 million people, one of the largest counties in the country. That presents the likelihood of more crime due to sheer size of the population.

The Death Penalty Information Center (DPIC) released data from a study it performed that highlighted the fact that 2 percent of counties account for more than half of all death-row sentences and executions. The DPIC argued that death sentences depend more on county location rather than the mitigating factors of the capital crime. In states like California,

there are “special circumstance clauses” that have to be proven in order to seek a death sentence. However, there are states that allow the district attorney to decide whether to seek a death sentence.

Volz pointed out that in urban areas, particularly in southern states, district attorneys have a plethora of resources, which increases the possibility of achieving a death petition. The fact that urban areas have deeper coffers than smaller counties makes a difference when a district attorney’s office has to decide whether to aggressively pursue the death penalty. Richard Dieter, executive director of the Death Penalty Information Center said, “To take on a death penalty case, that’s a multi-year commitment of a million dollars or more. “If you’re in Houston, there are 200 attorneys in the DA’s office, at least. They can do a lot of death penalty cases.”

The more prosecutors are involved in death penalty cases the more experience they get, which ultimately results in a higher conviction success rate. This experience covers more than just court proceedings; experience allows prosecutors to develop the ability to pick favorable jurors when at the end of the trial they must make the declaration for death.

From a political viewpoint, prosecutors are elected at the local level. Kent Scheidegger, the chief lawyer for the Sacramento-based Criminal Justice Legal Foundation, suggested that the reason local prosecutors are elected is so that citizens of that county can have an influence on how cases are adjudicated. Their decision is largely based on the campaign platform of each candidate.

When looking at the history of Harris County’s high death penalty count, the credit can

be attributed to former District Attorney Johnny Holmes. According to Dieter, during Holmes’ 21-year D. A. stint he was responsible for more than 200 death row sentences. Since Holmes’ departure as district attorney of Harris County, there has been a dramatic decline in the number of death sentences.

Since the death penalty moratorium was lifted in 1976, there have been 1,397 executions in the United States and counting.

## Crimes Reflect Seasonal Patterns

**By Ronell M. Draper**  
Journalism Guild Writer

Many crimes follow seasonal patterns, a U.S. Department of Justice report concludes.

Highlights of the June 2014 report include:

- Aggravated assaults were highest during the summer; simple assaults were highest during the fall.
- Rape and sexual assault tended to be highest during the summer.
- Intimate partner violence was highest in the summer.
- Robbery rates exhibited no seasonal variation.
- Household larceny and burglary and vehicle theft were highest in the summer.
- Violence involving weapons and violence causing serious in-

jury are highest in the summer and fall.

- The data covered the United States from 1993 to 2010.

“When seasonal variations were found for violent victimization, the differences between the rates of the highest and lowest seasons were less than 12 percent,” the report said.

The last study in seasonal patterns in criminal victimization trends was performed between 1973 and 1977 by the National Crime Survey. In that study “burglaries were about 26 percent less frequent in the winter than in the summer, while in the more recent period, the winter versus summer difference in burglary was about 11 percent.”

The more recent findings indicate that criminal victimization has taken a drop over the years, the report said.



Arts & Entertainment

“The hardest fight a man has to fight is to live in a world where every single day someone is trying to make you someone you don’t want to be.” –e.e. cummings

Sudoku Corner

	8	1				2		5
		2					7	
4				6				1
		4			1			3
		9		2		4		
3			4			1		
2				5				9
	4				6	7		
8		3				5	6	

					3	4		
		3			8			9
6			9			3	2	8
9						1	6	
1								4
	7	4						2
8	2			1	6			3
3			7			6		
		6	3					

Snippets

Jane Austen wrote an updated version of Aristotle’s essay *Sense and Sensibility* approximately 2,159 years later. Austen’s written piece was titled *Sense and Sensibility* in 1811.

Outdoor sports like baseball often require creative ways to help the eyes adjust to the sun. That is why the green underneath a baseball cap is created to stop the glare of the sunlight.

Under Napoleon’s leadership, a massive statue of an elephant in France was ordered as a representation of his dominance.

Record of the fastest Braille reader was set by using both hands. The record holder said that using both hands helped make it easier to read one line at a time.

Not too many people know that Alexander Graham Bell, inventor of the phone, had a mother and wife who were deaf.

Earning a title as one of the top 10 greatest female chess players, Diana Lanni, used chess as a way to defeat her drug habits and her battle with suicidal thoughts.

Years ago Chinese philosopher Confucius said, “To study and not think is a waste. To think and not study is dangerous.” This was his reflection on study behaviors.



Lucia de la Fuente visiting hometown Mexico City, reading S.Q. News with her friend Tatiana in front of the old Cathedral at Zocalo

Last Issue’s Sudoku Solution

4	2	9	1	8	6	5	7	3
5	8	7	2	3	9	6	4	1
3	6	1	5	4	7	2	8	9
8	1	3	7	6	2	4	9	5
2	4	5	3	9	8	7	1	6
7	9	6	4	1	5	3	2	8
1	7	2	8	5	3	9	6	4
6	3	8	9	2	4	1	5	7
9	5	4	6	7	1	8	3	2

8	1	9	7	6	5	4	3	2
4	5	2	8	9	3	1	7	6
3	7	6	1	2	4	8	5	9
1	9	3	4	5	8	2	6	7
6	2	4	9	1	7	3	8	5
7	8	5	2	3	6	9	4	1
2	3	7	6	8	1	5	9	4
9	6	8	5	4	2	7	1	3
5	4	1	3	7	9	6	2	8

We Can Use Your Help

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\*Have made more than one donation



# San Quentin’s Islamic Community Promotes Fellowship Through Competitive Basketball

By Charles David Henry  
Journalism Guild Writer

More than 40 incarcerated men of Islam came to San Quentin’s Basketball Gym for a day of camaraderie, spiritual fellowship, competitiveness, fun, frolicking and eating.

Before the game started, they all gathered at center court to hear West Block’s Harun Taylor lead the Opening Prayer as Muslims from around the prison joined in a circle to recite the Islamic Opening Prayer together.

The brothers divided into two teams. Amir Shabazz coached Nur (way of light); Thomas Holmes coached the winning team, Haqq (way of truth). The score: 40-37.

“It wasn’t about winning or losing; it’s about brothers, greeting brothers,” said Rahsaan Thomas of North Block.

However, after the basketball was tossed up to start the game and the adrenaline released into their blood stream, camaraderie temporarily ceased to exist and the competitiveness of the game took over.

Askari Johnson from North Block, who was the leading scorer on Haqq with 10 points,

## SPORTS

2 rebounds, 1 assist and 1 steal, got off to a fast start. However, he went cold in the second half.

Carl Bibbs from West Block showed a real passion for the game despite the fact that he scored only 7 points. He had four assists, stole the basketball from opposing players once and committed 2 fouls. His free throw was the 40<sup>th</sup> point, where the game ended.

West Block’s big man David Bennett kept Nur from running fast breaks by dominating the backboards on both ends of the court. Even though he scored only 2 points, Bennett was the leading rebounder on Haqq with 7. He had 1 steal, 1 blocked shot and committed 3 fouls.

Antoine Brown from West Block played an all-around excellent game. He scored 6 points with 3 rebounds, but his intimidating defense kept Haqq in the lead throughout the first and second half.

Jerry Gearin from West Block came off the bench late in the first half, and his tenacity for the basketball kept Nur

from taking over the lead. His 6 points and 2 rebounds set the stage for the victory.

Rafeal “Nephew” Bankston demonstrated a lot of class when he came off the bench for Haqq with fire and desire to get into the flow of the basketball game. He quickly scored 4 points and grabbed 3 rebounds in the second half.

West Block’s Robbie Robbins demonstrated his patience and knowledge of the game as he maneuvered his Haqq teammates into various shooting positions and gave them the basketball. He had 2 points, 2 assists, 2 rebounds and 3 fouls.

Zaid Nicksolson from West Block was not going to let Nur fall too far behind in the game. He took control of the basketball and led all scorers with 20 points, 12 rebounds. He had 1 steal with 2 fouls.

Nicksolson’s teammate, point guard Taalib Batten from West Block, ran up and down the court with quick reactions to the basketball on both ends of the floor. He finished the game with 2 points, 4 rebounds and 2 steals.

Adnan Khan from North Block kept his eyes on the rim throughout the game.

He scored 5 points, had 2 rebounds, 2 assists and 1 steal and committed 2 fouls.

Dawud Irby from North Block played a well-balanced game on both ends of the court. He scored 4 points, and kept the opposing team from fast-breaking several times. Irby grabbed 5 rebounds and had 1 turnover that led to the other team scoring.

North Block’s Thomas’ 2 points were the highlight of the game. After making a 17-footer from the left corner of the court, he leaped six feet off the floor and shouted with such enthusiasm that his losing team thought he won the game.

Cory Woods from North Block played such a quiet basketball game, his teammates never realized he scored 3 points with 4 rebounds and committed 2 fouls.

North Block’s Justus Evans demonstrated his passionate love of basketball. He simply enjoyed being in the game. His good spirit resonated as he ran up and down the floor and grabbed 2 rebounds for Nur.

West Block’s Anthony Smith dominated the backboards on both ends of the court. He forced Haqq to alter several key shots with his intimidating inside play, causing his opponents to miss shots. He grabbed 7 rebounds and scored 2 points for the losing team.

Morceli Abdel, Mustafa Espinosa of Nur and Marcus Henderson from West Block of Haqq, entered the game late in the second half and chased the ball as it bounced and rolled around on the court. They kept up with the fast pace of the game as shot after shot was attempted at both ends.

## Soccer Players Looking to Recruit Outside Sponsor

By Rahsaan Thomas  
Sports Editor

Avid soccer players long for an outside sponsor to elevate their team to the level of other sports programs in San Quentin.

“We would like to have a sponsor, but nobody at this point has taken up the reins,” said G. “JoJo” Robinson, a recreation clerk who has been trying to find a soccer sponsor for five years.

Robinson played semi-pro soccer in St. Louis for the Jamaica Internationals and the U.S. Army.

without goalie gloves, shin guards, elbow pads or futbol boots.

“Playing the same inmates all the time doesn’t elevate our game,” said Juan Meza, a devoted soccer player.

“I would like us to have uniforms and equipment donated,” said Robinson.

Meanwhile, the baseball, softball, tennis, flag football, basketball, and track all have outside sponsors and donated equipment, leaving soccer players feeling left out.

“We want the same opportunities the other sport programs have,” said Meza.

“Anybody who experiences coaching a sport they love with San Quentin inmates will want to come in and coach all the time because of the warm thanks of appreciation the inmates will have,” said Don DeNevi, recreational director.

Christian Sports Ministry sponsor Don Smith agrees.

“I believe passionately that what we’re doing is good. That’s why we stick around year after year,” said Smith, who brings in basketball, softball and flag football teams.

Smith has agreed to try to recruit a soccer team to come in when the season starts again in March, but his hands are already filled, so he can’t be the soccer coach or outside organizer needed.

“We need someone to coach us, organize games with outside teams and get equipment donated,” said Robinson.

“We always practice to be ready for an opportunity to play outside teams,” said Vieyra.

Anyone who interested in coaching/sponsoring the soccer program should contact DeNevi at (415) 454-1460 ext. 6192.

*“We need somebody. We have nobody. We will appreciate anything that moves us forward”*

“We need somebody. We have nobody,” said Jose Vieyra. “We will appreciate anything that moves us forward.”

Vieyra, Robinson, and fellow inmate Jesus Lopez have been organizing soccer tournaments inside San Quentin. As many as four teams totaling 46 guys come out to play “futbol.”

“Everybody plays together – different races; it doesn’t matter,” Lopez said.

Without a sponsor, their games have been limited to playing against other inmates and no equipment has been provided except soccer goal nets. Therefore, they play

## USF’s Team Visit Helps San Quentin Players Connect



Photo by Peter Merts

University of San Francisco players posing with Inside Tennis Team after a friendly competition

By Harun Taylor  
Contributing Writer

College athletes visiting San Quentin help prisoners prepare for return to their communities, says University of San Francisco tennis coach Pablo Pires de Almeida.

“We may have opened the door to something really, really big. Our football, basketball, soccer and baseball teams are all interested in coming inside and playing against the guys here. Community support for programs like sports are a key for reentry,” Almeida said during a visit late last year.

“This is my first time com-

ing inside a prison to play,” said one of the players, Vasco Valvardi of Portugal. “I’m waiting to see what the game is going to be like.” The players also represented Finland, Malaysia, and Denmark.

The USF tennis team brought in six players to go against the San Quentin Inside Tennis Team. The visitors won easily.

“The first time we came in, the play was decent,” said Nick Valko. “The next trip, there was a vast improvement. I’m waiting to see if it’s improved more.”

“My guys come here for the experience of shared love of tennis,” said the USF coach.

“The experience of coming inside, playing tennis in this environment – barbed wire and gun towers – it brings a certain irony to the game. You find love of the game at any level you find it.”

“The first time I came in here, I won’t lie: I was scared to death,” said a visitor from Finland. “I mean, you see prison movies – riots, shivs and all that. However, once I came in here and saw the complete opposite, I was stunned. These people love tennis, and the environment isn’t the Hollywood stuff. Everyone here is respectful and interested in positive work.”



# Former Boxing Champ Leaves it All on the Canvas

By Rahsaan Thomas  
Sports Editor

Former San Quentin resident and boxer Paul Nave ended his final bout on the canvas. He was defeated by 27-year-old Luis “Tijuana Tornado” Hernandez in the second round.

“I left it all in the ring, every time,” Nave said after the match, according to a Feb. 1 article in the *Marin Independent Journal*, “Nave Comes Up Short As He Wraps Up Career,” by Paul Liberatoro.

***“Nave, the 54-year-old ‘Marin County Assassin,’ wanted to cap his 30-year career with a 21st win in a farewell fight”***

Nave, the 54-year-old “Marin County Assassin,” wanted to cap his 30-year career with a 21st win in a farewell fight at the Marin Center Exhibition Hall in San Rafael.

Nave got his weight down to 147 pounds for the match and headed to the ring with Frank Sinatra’s “My Way” playing. He entered it rocking Italian flag colors, said the article.

Hernandez knocked him down in the second round and was awarded a technical knockout.

Previously Nave served three years in San Quentin State Prison on a 1990 conviction for selling cocaine. He was temporarily released for several bouts,



Photo by Robert Tong (Marin Independent Journal)

Marin boxer Paul Nave, right, throws a hard right against Luis Hernandez of Tijuana, Mexico, who is returning the favor during a four-round bout on Jan. 30 at the Marin Center Exhibition Hall in San Rafael. Hernandez won the bout

all of which he won. Back then, Nave wore black trunks with white stripes to show he was a convict.

Thirty-year San Quentin resident Lonnie Morris remembers Nave.

“He was sociable and well-liked. He never bought into the racial tension,” said Morris. “He left San Quentin for a boxing match while still incarcerated.”

In 2009, after nine years off and two back surgeries, Nave made a comeback. He gained his 20<sup>th</sup> and final victory in 2012, capping a five win, one loss run, according to the arti-

cle. He decided to come back again for a 21<sup>st</sup> win.

Nave is very well respected in the boxing world. Showing good sportsmanship, Hernandez raised Nave’s hand in the air and told the crowd, “He’s a true champion,” according to the article. Several voices in the crowd responded, “We love you, Paul.”

Andy Foster, director of the California State Athletic Commission, said he would like to give Nave a role in boxing as an official, a judge or a referee.

“He’s done so much for the sport,” the commissioner said.



Photo by LT Robinson

Nave shows and discusses triumphant victories earning championship titles on last visit to San Quentin

## Heavy Rain Not a Factor as Herena Sets 5K Record

By Frank Ruona  
Contributing Writer

Eddie Herena outpaced the 1000 Mile Club members who braved rainy conditions for posterity in the first-ever 5K race at San Quentin filmed by Flotrack.

“Watching the 21 runners hammer out that 5K in the pouring rain and have fun doing it was truly inspiring,” said Taylor Dutch, the Flotrack host. “It was truly an unforgettable experience ...and by far my favorite project I have worked on for Flotrack.”

“It felt excellent. We’ve never run a race in those conditions. It was unique,” said Herena, 31, who bested everyone with a time of 18:25 running at a 5:57 minute per mile pace.

Herena’s time established the 1000 Mile Club’s 5K record in San Quentin.

“That record won’t stand,” commented Herena.

Flotrack is a new media outlet whose mission is to promote running. Many 1000 Mile Club runners had missed being filmed in a 2013 competition that was posted on Flotrack’s web site. (<http://www.flotrack.org/coverage/250049-2013-Indoor-Track-and-Field-on-Flotrack/>)



Photo by Sam Hearnes

Record holder, Eddie Herena outruns Abel Armengol to keep the lead in a training for the 5K race

[video/675936-San-Quentin-1000-Mile-Club#.VNfYKfnF8j4](http://video/675936-San-Quentin-1000-Mile-Club#.VNfYKfnF8j4).

Those club members were determined to run, come hell or high water, to make sure they were included in the Feb. 6 videotaping.

Cinematographer Tyler Gerrell filmed this year’s event. The rain cleared out the normal pedestrian traffic, leaving the lanes all clear for the competitors. However, the wet and

muddy conditions did cause some problems.

Several runners took spills, including Carlos Ramirez, who took a fall on the second lap and still came in second. The 36-year-old finished in 19:51, running at a 6:24 minute per mile pace.

“If Carlos hadn’t fallen, it would have been a closer race,” said Herena.

Herena took a fall of his own during the final .10 of a

mile when he ran across the grass on the baseball field to complete the race.

Morceli Abdel Kader, 33, was able to run fast enough to finish third in a time of 20:49, despite the rain and having a leg injury.

“You can’t let the rain stop you from exercising,” said Kader. “Running is good for you.”

Right behind Kader came in Stephen Reitz, 38, in a time of 21:12. Larry Ford, 59, was the first finisher over 50, setting the 50 and older 5000-Meter record at 21:18.

Chris Schuhmacher, 41, ran a strong 22:14 to take sixth place and edge out seventh place finisher Vincente Gomez, 39.

Glen Mason, 52, and Michael Keeyes, 67, had a spirited battle for eighth, with Mason taking it by one second with a time of 22:41. Keeyes was the oldest runner.

Abel Armengol, 27, secured 10th place in 23:28.

Next was Louis Hunter, 54, in 23:58 followed by Clifton Williams, 53, in 24:53.

Newcomer Jonathan Chiu, 32, finished his first S.Q. race at 14th in 25:52.

He was followed by Darren Settlemeyer, 48, who completed the 5K in 26:01.

Malcolm Jones, 56, came in at 26:21 followed by Tyrone Al-

len, 55, in 27:02.

Jonathan Hamilton, 27, signed up for the 1000 Mile Club the morning of the race and completed it in 27:26.

Eddie DeWeaver, 39, was seconds behind Hamilton with a time of 27:45. Right on DeWeaver’s tail was Leroy Lucas, 39, finishing 14 seconds later.

Rahsaan Thomas, 44, ran in his work boots rather than his Adidas running shoes and took 21st place with a time of 31:20.

Marlon Beason, 34, closed out the race in 32:50.

The showers wet paper and washed away ink, which made keeping track of laps difficult for lap counters coaches Kevin Rumon and Diana Fitzpatrick, community volunteers Jim Morris and Jill Friedman, and San Quentin residents Dennis Barnes, Ralph Lignons, and Tone Evans.

“We had to poke holes in the paper to keep track of laps,” said Rumon. “Nothing else worked.”

After the race, Dutch conducted interviews with several runners for their next Flotrack San Quentin 1000 Mile Club feature.

“I’m blessed, and I thank God that I’m able to run the way I do,” said Herena. “I really appreciate our sponsors for their support.”



# Garden Program ‘Rediscovered Faith in Human Spirit’

By James R. Abernathy Jr.  
Journalism Guild Writer

The San Quentin Insight Garden Program was launched 12 years ago by a woman who had lost trust in mankind.

“Like millions of people across the country, the tragedy of 9/11 impacted me deeply. Essentially, I lost faith in humanity,” said Beth Waitkus, founder and director of the garden project.

During the following months, Waitkus set out on a new journey in life. Her purpose was to rediscover her faith in the human spirit and to find good in the world.

This new journey led her to a volunteer training program at San Quentin. “It became evident that there was a vast need for prisoner support inside the prison walls – so when people leave, they don’t come back,” said Waitkus.

Exactly one year after 9/11, Waitkus and other members of the volunteer training program proposed creating a garden in San Quentin. An

additional year later, an actual garden was started on the yard of H-Unit.

With the garden came the Insight Garden class, along with a steady and enthusiastic class of inmate participants.

The class consists of a combination of curriculums designed to edify the inner-self, to inspire reformatory thinking, to encourage social interaction and to develop a conscious-awareness of nature and its natural connection to everyday human life.

As custom, before class session begins, members take a reflective walk through the H-Unit garden. Inside the class, a circular seating arrangement is formed, followed by a group meditation. In the center of the circle sits the class mascot, a fern plant aptly named “Fern.”

“Over the years, the evolution of our powerful curriculum, combined with gardening, has impacted more than 1,000 prisoners’ lives. And we have witnessed the transformation of the human heart



Photo courtesy of Inside Garden Program

Beth Waitkus



Photo courtesy of Steve Emnick

Prisoners recognized for their work, harvesting edible vegetables to donate to a San Francisco food bank

time and time again,” said Waitkus.

“Other inmates gave me positive feedback about the class,” said inmate Will Brown, a newly enrolled participant of the Insight Garden class. “A former graduate of this program informed me how the class helped him weed out a lot of bad things in his life, which piqued my cu-

riosity.”

There are two gardens in H-Unit. One consists of flowers and decorative plants. The other contains edibles, which are donated to a food bank in San Francisco.

Outside volunteers include representatives from Planting Justice, a Bay Area nonprofit organization that employs former inmates, a biology teacher

and long-time friends of Waitkus from many walks of life.

“People like her change the world for the better. When she interacts with us, she treats us like human beings,” Brown said of Waitkus.

In an interview, Waitkus said her faith in humanity was restored, thanks in part to the gardening project. “Absolutely ... the world heals!”

## Inmate Fire Crews’ Jobs Jeopardized After Prop. 47

By Antonio Alvarado  
Journalism Guild Writer

Officials in California counties are concerned that the passage of Proposition 47 will give the inmate fire crew programs uncertain futures, the *Los Angeles Times* reports.

Proposition 47 reduces penalties on drug possession and nonviolent crimes, which could sharply reduce the number of jail inmates qualified for fire camp duties.

San Bernardino County officials are sorting out how the law affects inmate fire crews as well as other programs, sheriff’s spokeswoman Jodi Miller told the *Times* in a Nov. 12 story. “It could very well create an issue as far as having inmates eligible to be part of the inmate fire crew,” she said.

“The inmates who could now be released from custody would be the ones that have the criminal history that allows them to be part of that program.”

Fire crews are made up of nonviolent state prisoners. They have long been a major plus in helping protect California during fire season. About 4,000 offenders statewide participate, saving about \$80 million in firefighting annually.

The newspaper story focused on three former fire crew fighters: William Winegardner, 34, of Hesperia; Tim Johnson, 49, of San Bernardino; and James Jones, 26, of

Barstow.

They reported they have changed their views and attitude toward life in a positive way and become productive citizens, leaving their old ways of thinking behind and anticipating to live pro-social.

For Winegardner, the fire crew brought forth a transition in which he hopes will be a new life. “For me to even be considered to get on with them shows that I’ve done good here,” Winegardner said. “Last time I didn’t have a job to go to, I didn’t have any of that. Now, I’m more confident. I know I’m going to do good this time.”

Several inmates now are waiting on the list to join the crew, officials say. For many of the fire crew fighters, the community’s gratitude has given them a sense of pride.

“Instead of people saying, ‘Oh, here comes T.J., that drug

dealer,’ they’re like, ‘Hey, here’s T.J., the hard worker,’” said Johnson. “They respect me.”

Jones has applied his free time to reading volumes of magazines and self-help books on long-term planning and overcoming addiction. He said being part of the fire crew has made him realize past mistakes, believing there is a second chance to capture.

“It’s the opportunity of a lifetime,” he said. “This whole program gave me a whole different motivation and reason to pursue a better future.”

San Bernardino County Sheriff’s Capt. Nina Jamson, the commander of Glen Helen Rehabilitation Center, said the inmate fire crew members “learn to remove themselves from what they used to do. And they’re changing their attitudes and look at life differently.”



File photo

Inmates fighting fires on a sunny day



From April 13 through 16, the American Correctional Association (ACA) is scheduled to audit San Quentin.

San Quentin prisoners may write ACA regarding their concerns or comments about this institution or the ACA accreditation process.

The address to write such concerns or comments is:

**American Correctional Association**  
206 N. Washington Street  
Alexandria, VA 22314

ACA says its accreditation is only given after a visiting committee endorses an institution that shows compliance with its more than 500 standards, such as conditions of confinement, staff training, policy and procedure, continuity of care and health care. Compliance is proven in three ways: review of standard files, interviews with staff and inmates, and tour of the facility.

According to the ACA, their purpose is to “promote improvement in the management of correctional agencies through an accreditation program,” and to “offer CDCR the opportunity to evaluate their operations against national standards, remedy deficiencies, and upgrade the quality of correctional programs and services.”

California prison officials say they want to have all 34 prisons accredited by 2017.



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## The Last Mile Presents The 'Future of Work'



Photo by Harold Meeks

Lieutenant Governor Gavin Newsom, (A) Warden Ron Davis and Chief Deputy Warden Kelly Mitchell at the Last Mile Graduation

**By Juan Haines**  
Managing Editor

Inmate entrepreneurs enrolled in The Last Mile, an entrepreneurship training program at San Quentin State Prison, presented their business proposals to an audience of

300 business executives, public safety officials and fellow inmates on March 27.

The presenters' business concepts were all phone applications that focused on such topics as youth empowerment, culture preservation and firearm safety. Many of the con-

cepts were developed from the entrepreneurs' experiences of what was lacking in their own environments growing up.

"I wish I'd had something to help me understand my emotions then," said participant

*See Last Mile's on Page 10*

## Gov. Brown Gets Second Chance to Reshape Courts

**By Chung Kao**  
Staff Writer

Gov. Jerry Brown has had his second chance to reshape the nation's most influential state

court, the California Supreme Court, according to *The New York Times*.

In his first term, nearly 40 years ago, Brown appointed the first female chief justice, Rose

E. Bird, to the California Supreme Court. Bird had never served as a judge and, along with two other judges Brown

*See Governor on Page 7*



Photo courtesy of CDCR

Women prisoners in the middle of a long day

## Women Prisoners On Fire Lines

**By Adnan Khan**  
Journalism Guild Writer

fires and clear potential fuel for future blazes.

Wearing orange pants and vests marked CDCR, an all-women inmate crew is helping California fight forest

"We wouldn't be able to do this without them," said Stephen Scatolini, restoration

*See Women on Page 4*

## Change Should Start While Incarcerated

*'You need to start working on yourself while still in prison'*



File Photo

Douglas Butler

**By James R. Abernathy Jr.**  
Journalism Guild Writer

If you want to change your life, you need to start working on yourself while still in prison, a former cop-turned-convict-turned-counselor advised a group of inmate writers.

If you think change will

start when you get out, that won't work, Douglas Butler recently told members of the San Quentin Journalism Guild.

"You have to practice in here, right now, to get clean and sober," he added.

Butler served seven years

*See Changing on Page 8*



Photo courtesy of CDCR

Photo courtesy of CDCR

Photo courtesy of CDCR

Justice  
Mariano-Florentino Cuellar

Justice  
Leondra Kruger

Justice  
Goodwin Liu



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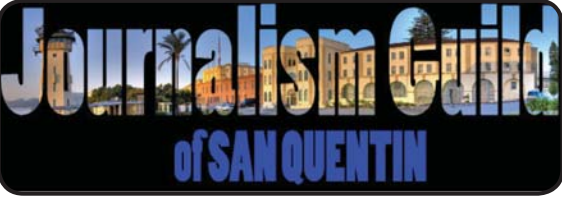


Prisoners United in the Craft of Journalism

In collaboration with students from the

Journalism Guild

of SAN QUENTIN



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- Limit your articles to no more than 350 words.
- Know that articles will be edited for content and length.
- The newspaper is not a medium to file grievances. (For that, use the prison appeals process.) We encourage submitting articles that are newsworthy and encompass issues that will have an impact on the prison populace.
- Please do not use offensive language in your submissions.
- Poems and art work (cartoons and drawings) are welcomed.
- Letters to the editor should be short and to the point.

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Father Williams Shares His Views of God and Other Regions

By Gino Sevacos  
Journalism Guild Writer

*This is the second half of an interview with Father George Williams, the Catholic Chaplain for San Quentin.*

*Would you share your view of the various faiths represented here at San Quentin?*

One of my ancestors was a Puritan pastor named Roger Williams.

He left the narrow and intolerant Puritan church in Boston (well, he was sort of kicked out of it) and moved to what is now Rhode Island (he founded the city of Providence) and created a place that welcomed people from other religious denominations and faiths.

He was way ahead of his time – Providence offered to provide sanctuary to Jews and Quakers, even Catholics, while back in Massachusetts they were hanging people for witchcraft in Salem. (Another one of my ancestors was accused of witchcraft but was found not guilty!)

Anyway, Roger Williams was a tolerant man with an open mind. I either inherited those genes or I am just inspired to follow his example in my life. I have always been interested in how other people view God – and I believe there is good and truth in every faith tradition.

I believe Jesus Christ is the savior of the world – but God can save people through him without necessarily adopting Christianity – in other words, God's mercy extends to all people who live and follow their faith tradition with devotion. So for me, it's not about needing to convert people to Catholicism, even though I think there is great beauty and wisdom in my faith tradition.

For me, it is more important to help men here come to know God as they understand God – and to deepen their spiritual connection with the Divine. I believe that God draws all of us closer to him and to the truth as long as our hearts are open to receive that love and truth.

So if a guy is Muslim, I would want him to be the best Muslim he can be, same for Jews, Jehovah's Witnesses, Mormons, Hindus or whatever faith group you can imagine. The key is that the person needs to be willing to be open to the power of love in his life.

The danger to the spiritual life is any kind of excessive

fundamentalism in any religion that ends up creating a god in our image – a.k.a. an idol.

People become like the God they worship, so if they worship an intolerant, punishing, judge-in-the-sky kind of god, then it is no wonder they end up being intolerant, vengeful and judgmental in their own lives. Fear of God isn't about being afraid of God; it's about honoring and respecting the power of God as

San Quentin is the people in it – both those wearing blue and those wearing green.

I have found the staff here easy to work with and very professional. In Massachusetts, they looked at chaplains (and sometimes with good reason) with suspicion and distrust. Here I have felt welcome and have been treated as a colleague, not a nuisance.

The men in blue who I encounter most often are a pleasure to work with – there aren't a lot of differences with the guys here and those I knew in Massachusetts, except of course no one here speaks with a wicked "Bastin" accent.

I have enjoyed working with men on Death Row too. That is a place of contrasts. There are deep and troubling shadows there – spiritually it is a dark place – but there is also light and humor and humanity there – and that outweighs the heaviness and darkness of the place.

In your opinion, what is good and bad about the criminal justice system?

I think we have to own up to the institutionalized racism in our criminal justice system. That's the most obvious flaw I think and because of it many lives and communities have been disrupted and damaged.

I'm working on a Ph.D. now in criminal justice. I started in 2007, when I was in Boston, long before I knew I'd be out here. Our prisons could be more humane places than they generally are (San Quentin being an exception) – and it's a serious problem that we imprison so many of our people – way more than any other advanced countries do.

My impression of corrections workers is that they do the best job they can – but the public seems uninformed and oblivious to many of the issues around prisons.

I think too that starting in the 1980s the U.S. went on a prison binge that was fueled by a cynical political "get tough on crime" mentality that has not served our society well. So fairly radical change has to happen – but I imagine it will take time for us as a society to figure a way out of it.

I see many hopeful signs though – such as the changes in the Three Strikes law and the way that a lot more lifers are getting a chance for parole, which wasn't possible only a few years back.



Photo by Sam Hearn

Father George Williams in front of the Chapel



# Report: 4 in 10 County Jail Inmates Await Sentencing

By Charles David Henry  
Journalism Guild Writer

In a report published by the Office of Justice Programs Bureau of Justice Statistics, nationwide, “Four in 10 [jail] inmates were sentenced of-fenders or convicted offenders awaiting sentencing.” White inmates were 47 percent, blacks represented 36 percent and Hispanics comprised 15 percent of the male popula-tion incarcerated by the end of June 2013.

About six out of 10 jail in-mates were not convicted dur-ing this period but were incar-cerated awaiting court action on a current charge, a rate un-changed since 2005. The re-port said, “The majority of the jail inmates were held in less than 10 percent of the jails. The largest jails (those with an average daily population of 1,000 or more inmates) held 48 percent of the inmate popu-lation at midyear 2013 but accounted for 6 percent of all jail jurisdictions nationwide.”

“In comparison, the small-

est jail jurisdictions held 3 percent of all jail jurisdic-tions...Combined, these jail jurisdictions accounted for 18 percent of all inmates. Jail jurisdictions with an aver-age daily population of 250 to 999 inmates accounted for 17 percent of all jail jurisdic-tions, but held 31 percent of all inmates at midyear 2013,” the report said.

**“The number of persons admitted in 2013 was 16 times the size of the average daily population (731,352)”**

“The average daily popula-tion (ADP) is derived by the sum of inmates in jail each day for a year, divided by the number of days in the year (i.e., between July 1, 2012,

and June 30, 2013),” it was re-ported.

During a 12-month period, local jails processed 11.7 mil-lion inmates. The report not-ed, “The number of persons admitted in 2013 was 16 times the size of the average daily population (731,352).”

At the end of June 2013, more than a third of inmates admitted were sent to the larg-est jails. According to the re-port, “In comparison, jail ju-risdictions holding fewer than 50 inmates accounted for 7 percent of all jail admissions. For these jails, the number of inmates admitted was 34 times the size of the ADP.”

The female inmate popu-lation increased 10.9 percent (up 10,000 inmates) between midyear 2010 and 2013, an av-erage of 1 percent each year between 2005 and 2013.

California jails experienced an increase of approximately 12,000 inmates between mid-year 2011 and midyear 2013 following the passage of the California Public Safety Re-alignment.



File Photo

San Francisco County Jail

## S.F. Jail Explores Restorative Justice

By Tommy Bryant  
Journalism Guild Writer

A jail in San Francisco is exploring a new concept in criminal justice called restor-ative justice – an alternative to traditional criminal justice that focuses on healing vic-tims and offenders alike.

“The most important thing is to be accountable, but in order to work on yourself, you have to be comfortable,” said Christopher Gillis, 44, facing murder and commercial bur-glary charges.

Gillis was one of 48 men en-rolled in a four-day restorative justice workshop focusing on jail design, the *Los Angeles Times* reported Aug. 19.

“I feel an extra sense of purpose today,” said Lamar Paschall, 32, charged with kidnapping, rape and robbery. “Hopefully this can become fruitful and turn into some-thing real down the line.”

The workshop was for men awaiting trial in the San Fran-cisco jail who agreed to par-ticipate in a program called “Resolve to Stop the Vio-lence.”

This workshop allows them to explore their feelings about the system that landed them there.

Regarding jail design, An-thony Pratt, 29, pictures an airy room with a skylight to al-low for sunlight and a fountain with cascading waterfalls to represent resilience. He added windows and privacy barriers

for the shower and toilet areas.

Instructor Barb Toews, a re-storative justice practitioner, conducted a 13-inmate work-shop at a Pennsylvania prison, with most participants having committed murder. The men were defensive and reluctant to share their feelings. She asked, “What would a room look like where you could face anything you’ve done and be accountable for it” Togeth-er they created a vision and called it “Do No Harm” room.

Designer Deanna VanBuren encourages big architectural firms to hold similar work-shops, “The goal is to empow-er those inside the institutions and prod architects to actually talk to the people they are de-signing for” because “that’s how an architect would prac-tice in any other setting.”

Critics of restorative justice contend the process could lead to disparate remedies, making some victim organizations and hard-line prosecutors reject it. Nonetheless, the practice has spread globally.

Theorist Howard Zehr pro-moted restorative justice con-cepts in the 1970s. As con-sensus builds that traditional criminal justice models are failing to prevent recidivism, VanBuren and fellow instruc-tor Toews, an academic, have joined a small chorus of de-signers, researchers, judges and wardens calling for new spaces to match the tenets of restorative justice, the *Times* reported.

## 67% in U.S. Favor Treatment Over Jail for Drug Users

By Wesley R. Eisiminger  
Staff Writer

Sixty-seven percent of Americans favor drug treat-ment rather than jail or prison for non-violent drug users, a Pew Research Center report concludes.

“The public appears ready for a truce in the long-run-ning war on drugs,” the Pew report says.

Just 26 percent of Ameri-cans think the government’s focus should be on prosecut-ing users of illegal drugs such as heroin and cocaine.

The Pew report issued in April says the public is now looking at treatment of drug users as a change in the long-running war on drugs.

The report says the public has positive views of doing away with mandatory jail times for non-violent drug crimes, with 63 percent in fa-

vor and 32 percent against.

U.S. drug policy is at a piv-otal time of national debate on how to deal with drug abuse. A bipartisan effort in Congress would give federal judges discretion for sentenc-ing low-level cases that now require lengthy mandatory sentences.

**“The public appears ready for a truce in the long-running war on drugs”**

The Pew report says 81 per-cent of blacks want the gov-ernment to focus on treatment of illegal drug users. The eth-nic difference is 66 percent of whites and 61 percent of His-

panics favor treatment.

On the issue of marijuana, Pew reports about 76 percent of Americans say if marijua-na is not legalized, the pen-alty for possession of small amounts should not be jail time, compared with 22 per-cent favoring jail time.

“The federal government’s annual survey on drug use in the United States finds that the use of illicit drugs has increased over the past de-cade, in part because of a rise in marijuana use,” the report says.

“The government treats marijuana as an illicit drug; marijuana is now legal for medicinal use in 18 states and the District of Columbia and for recreational use in two others (Colorado and Wash-ington).”

The Pew survey was con-ducted in February among 1,821 adults.

## Attorney General Eric Holder Supports Obama’s Effort to Reduce Sentences for Nonviolent Offenders

U.S. Attorney General Eric Holder, with support from President Obama, “created the federal reentry council in 2011 as part of an effort to reduce sentences for drug and other nonviolent offenders, and thereby reduce prison popula-tions,” explained Katti Gray in an article for *The Crime Re-port*.

According to Gray, eight for-merly incarcerated persons and officials from the Obama ad-ministration met in late Octo-ber to discuss America’s prison crisis and tough-on-crime law-

makers.

The meeting was arranged by the U.S. Attorney General Office’s Interagency Reentry Council to focus on equita-ble sentencing and introduce Washington policymakers to the shareholders of nonprofit organizations like Just Leader-ship USA.

### INTERVIEW

In an interview with Gray, former inmate Glenn Martin, who participated in the meet-ing, said, “What we are ask-ing for is a system ... that is

really based on social justice.” He contends that “hoped-for reduction is not as farfetched as it may seem, considering that New York state has cut its prison population by about 25 percent over the last 18 years.”

Martin, who launched Leadership USA, hosted a 10-month-long training for ex-inmates wanting to partici-pate in the national debate over crime, courts and corrections policy and reform. Their train-ing focused on organizational development, fundraising, marketing, public relations and

other skills that would help them make their voices heard.

### DIALOGUE

One of the officials at the meeting in Washington D.C. was Amy Solomon, a senior adviser at the U.S. Justice De-partment, who administers Holder’s federal reentry coun-cil. She “agrees that it’s impor-tant that anyone with a stake in criminal justice be a part of the dialogue about that system.”

Martin told Gray that Just Leadership USA’s mission is to shift the paradigm of the

criminal justice debate by ap-pealing to the compassion and common sense of Americans.

According to *The Crime Report*, momentum for chang-ing America’s sentencing and incarceration policies got a boost with a \$50 million Open Society Foundation grant to the American Civil Liberties Union “for its efforts to tackle incarceration rates that have remained relatively steady even as the nation’s crime rate overall has declined in recent years.”

—By Charles David Henry



# L.A. County D.A. Expects Jail Overcrowding Lawsuit

By Tommy Bryant  
Journalism Guild Writer

Los Angeles expects a lawsuit will challenge the overcrowding and poor conditions in its jails resulting from Re-alignment, the county district attorney says.

“You know another lawsuit is coming,” says L.A. District Attorney Jackie Lacey. “We’re

next.”

Imagine triple-stacked bunk beds spaced one foot apart with toilets placed in the middle rows without partitions. This describes one of the temporary living quarters crammed with more than 200 inmates at the Men’s Central Jail (MCJ) in Los Angeles.

According to Christina Vil-lacorte of the *L.A. Daily News*,

Sheriff’s Capt. Daniel Dyer grimaced during a recent inspection as he pointed out the men having to eat and sleep a few feet from the toilets. “That’s just wrong,” he said.

MCJ was built in 1963 and has a long history of failing pipes, rusted gates, broken doors, leaking sewage, failing air conditioning systems. Most of the businesses that produced replacement parts to repair these problems no longer exist.

Juan Hernandez, a drug of-fender said, “Attitudes are popping off.” Another drug of-fender, Andy Gurule, said he preferred being homeless on the streets rather than being held at MCJ.

Prison Realignment (AB 109) has pushed this overcrowding to the point of forcing L.A. County to hold more than two or three state prison popula-tions. MCJ’s population was about 15,000 three years ago and it now holds 19,000 – 4,000 more than government regula-tions allow, the newspaper re-ported.

Gov. Jerry Brown has created a crisis by requiring counties to keep low-level offenders who were once shipped to a state prison, noted County Assistant Chief Executive Officer Ryan Alsop.

The federal courts prompted Realignment when California prisons were declared so over-



L.A. District Attorney Jackie Lacey



Los Angeles County jail sheriffs and prisoners

## Women Firefighters Work Hard to Give Back to Society

*‘We wouldn’t be able to do this without them,’ says State Parks official*

*Continued from Page 1*

specialist for California State Parks, as the female workers worked to clear dying Torrey pine trees infested with bark beetles.

“The trees we have to take out are the big, thick trees that take a long time to die,” Scatolini told the *San Diego Reader*, which reported the story Jan. 23.

“The trees weigh tons,” said CAL FIRE Capt. Mitch Hubbard.

CAL FIRE shared space and training with a carefully selected and trained group of state-prison inmates who deployed to fight fires, clear brush and work on state and county park land projects, the article reads.

***“They come away with a skill set that will help them transition when they’re released”***

The California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation made history when Rainbow Conservation Camp #2 became an all-female camp in 1983, the article reports. CDCR also has a number of all-male inmate firefighter crews around California.

“It’s a very rigorous training,” said camp commander

Lt. Harriet Woods. “We have a six-week program that includes physical fitness, fire suppression and emergency response.”

The women on the crews are paid less than \$1.50 an hour and often send the money home, the story said.

“They can receive a useful job reference, and they know they can apply to CAL FIRE – it has actually happened that CAL FIRE has hired our crew members,” Woods said. “They come away with a skill set that will help them transition when they’re released.”

“They are minimum custody – lower offenders and are more trustworthy and trusted. For a lot of the women, this is the first time they have been trained and supported and are working for an hourly wage.”

One of the women firefighters said, “I feel like I’m giving back for what I did.”

Another of the women said, “We live together; we eat together; we’re like a family. It can get tricky out here, and we look out for each other.”



Female prisoners cut down trees and clear flammable branches and leaves

### Website Offers Help to Families of Those Incarcerated

A new and free search engine, [www.PrisonPath.com](http://www.PrisonPath.com), provides information for the public. The site helps users in clarifying confusion and fear of the unknown when a loved one is charged and arrested, or sentenced to imprisonment in the United States. PrisonPath provides information including the ability to find a person incarcerated, visitation rules, contact numbers, and more about every American prisons or jails. It also allows families and friends of inmates to communicate with each other on a specific page.



# Officer Davis Walks His Last Mile in San Quentin

By Julian Glenn Padgett  
Contributing Writer

For three decades, Correctional Officer Keith Davis walked the gun rails and halls of San Quentin State Prison. Now on the eve of his retirement, he says the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation still has work to do.

Davis, 57, said that in all the time he has been a correctional officer at San Quentin, it has only been in the last few years that the CDCR made strides toward creating better conditions for inmates.

"San Quentin is the flagship of CDCR, but there's still much work to be done in the area of providing education and viable trades, so that those leaving prison will be better prepared to stay free of criminal activity," Davis said.

CDCR needs to be more inmate-asset driven instead of punishment driven, said Davis. This he thinks can only be done through education that is innovative, like the computer coding class at San Quentin.

"On this issue San Quentin did a great job. We are producing men who will be able to code when they parole. Now that is how it should be. Give these men a viable trade, and they won't recidivate," said Davis.

Davis said he learned from inmates by listening to them and by watching how lengthy prison terms shape those behind bars.

"I got the chance to see what time does to men who spend, 10, 20, even 30 years or more behind bars. I've witnessed the psychological deterioration of those I thought would make it through this experience, juxtaposed against others who were weak when they arrived at San Quentin but became stronger.

"Lengthy incarceration is a waste of human potential and tax money. It puts people in a time vacuum where life has ceased and doesn't move for-

it's in currently.

"Being at this prison has taught me a great deal about the human condition, why people make the choices that

his retirement to continue to fight for justice for his son who was murdered Dec. 28, 2012.

"There are still no arrests but three of the four shooters are

After all these years, Davis said those who can help him gain closure still refuse to come forward. The man who did this has committed similar crimes in Texas.

"The person that killed my son arranged robberies and then later kills his partners," And he's done this in California too. This is a pattern for him," said Davis.

Davis said his son was killed because he looked like another young man. The perpetrator knew Davis' son was not the person he wanted, but he used a weapon that sprayed bullets at the area where his son was sitting with his friends.

"Yeah, my son was trapped on the porch area. There was no way for him to get away from that, absolutely no way at all," said Davis.

"Certain people, who've professed love for my son, know who killed my son, so how can you profess love for my son and on a daily basis you let his killer stay free?" asked Davis. "It's really simple; he shot my son so he'll probably do it to those protecting him sooner or later."

Davis said while the pain of losing his son is one that he feels every day, he is moving forward and will miss several of his colleagues at San Quentin.

"I've met and made some good friends over the years. And I've learned that what makes a good correctional officer is a large dose of common sense, the ability to apply that common sense, and the willingness to see inmates as human beings, not something that's less than human. Now a bad correctional officer is one who uses his or her position to belittle an inmate. One thing I know is anyone can make a mistake and come to prison, and that's a fact," he said.



Officer K. Davis working at the West Block desk

ward or backward, it just exists," said Davis.

Davis said the dynamics of incarceration are built on people and that no one can sit in an office and determine how to relate to people in prison. That's why he thinks CDCR is in the shape

shape their lives and those lives around them," Davis said. "This is why a man or woman making decisions from behind a desk and not on prison grounds will hurt the department, as it already has."

Davis said he would also use

dead. I guess it was the life they chose to lead," said Davis. "I know where the fourth one is. Some reliable people have told me where he's at, but it's not my job to take the law into my own hands. My job is let this matter unfold as it will."

## Alliance for Change Wonders: 'What Would You Do?'

By Richard Richardson  
Design Editor

To prepare inmates for release from prison, one of San Quentin's self-help groups puts them through real-life situations with all sorts of typical complications thrown at them.

Known as Alliance for CHANGE (Creating Hope and New Goals Ethically), or AFC, the group's mission is to facilitate the pre- and post-release socialization of prisoners, in order to increase successful reintegration into the community.

AFC pursues its mission by creating a unique "virtual" environment, utilizing realistic situations, to teach and encourage participants to embrace community standards.

The Virtual Community helps participants develop parole and relapse-prevention plans. They also learn how to fill out job applications, create resumes and their own cover letters.

Participating inmates are taught what to wear and how to conduct themselves during a job interview, how to establish credit, create a budget,

open a bank account and apply for government assistance, if necessary. The course includes filling out an application for an identification card and taking the DMV written test for driving.

Seven participants in the current class have been "virtually" released from a half-way house and forced to reintegrate back into society on their own. They are assumed to be living in an area where the crime rate is high and the income is low.

The AFC Virtual Community "provided" the returning citizens with good-paying jobs and helped them fill out an application for an apartment. They had the choice of whether or not to have a roommate.

Within the first 72 hours, these returning citizens had to report to a parole officer.

Complications arise, however. One individual called "Tick" bumps into a "homeboy" from his old neighborhood gang. Tick considers the guy a lifetime friend.

Another participant, "Tack" runs into his ex-girlfriend, who invites him to come over to her house whenever he finds the time.

So far three parolees in the Virtual Community have already violated parole because they lacked the support system that they needed and relapsed back into their drug-addicted behavior. The other four are struggling to stay focused on becoming productive citizens in their neighborhoods. (See note below: What Would You Do?)

These are some of the typical scenarios thrown at the participants in the Virtual Community.

Aside from the Virtual Community training, the prisoners learn social justice theories, such as Procedure, Distributive, Retributive, Transitional, Community, Restorative Justices and Transformative Justice.

- Procedural Justice has to do with how decisions are made and fairly implemented, which makes people feel respected. Consistency, impartiality, participation and transparency are all key principles underlying Procedural Justice.

- Distributive Justice means that community rights and resources are evenly applied and that there are common advantages and common burdens in

the community.

- Retributive Justice is a theory of justice that considers punishment, if proportionate, to be the best response to crime. The retributive model emphasizes deterrence and punishment through the criminal justice process.

- Transitional Justice refers to various types of measures throughout the world that deal with human rights issues, including criminal prosecutions, truth commissions, reparations programs and various kinds of institutional reforms.

- Community Justice confronts crime by active problem-solving aimed at prevention, control, reduction and reparations of the harm wrongdoing has caused. The goal is creating and maintaining vital, healthy, safe and just communities, and improving the quality of life for all citizens.

- Restorative Justice focuses on victims' and offenders' needs, as well as the community's needs, instead of abstract legal principles or punishment. It is based on the belief that offenses occur against individuals or the community, not the state.

- Transformative Justice is a theory that justice cannot be obtained by mass incarceration, but through community involvement.

After graduation, AFC encourages inmates to continue participating in their virtual world while learning to deal with the challenges that parolees face as returning citizens.

The latest group of 29 participants began training in February.

Graduates who complete the AFC program are welcomed back as mentors to new participants.

### What Would You Do?

Tell us what you would do if you were in the same predicament of either Tick or Tack. Or, if you have a suggestion about a problem you'd like AFC to address. Send your response to San Quentin News, 1 Main St., San Quentin, CA 94974.



# Paroled ‘Lifers’ Deserve Drug Diversion

By Arnulfo T. Garcia  
Editor-in-Chief

A decade and a half ago, Californians passed a ballot measure to provide drug offenders with treatment instead of jail time. Recently, a state appeals court clarified Proposition 36, saying addiction treatment must be given, unless the offender poses a danger to the public.

The case stems from a parolee who was sentenced to county jail for drug possession. After the jail term, he was given a parole violation and sent to state prison. He challenged the prison sentence, saying he should have been given drug treatment according to the 2000 ballot measure, and the court agreed that he should not have been sent to prison.

As I reflect on my own struggles, the concept of drug rehabilitation instead of prison is personal because all the crimes I committed were directly tied to my addiction.

Now, as I wait to see if I will qualify for the elderly parole program known as SB 224, which would allow me to appear before the parole board and seek suitability, I envision getting out of prison after 15 or 25 years and going home to my loved ones. Release in 15 years would be contingent upon SB 224 passing, while release within 25 years would be possible under the current policy.

I'm excited by the prospect of not waking up to a guard's

## EDITORIAL

voice blaring over a loud speaker, chow release fifth tier, work release, the yard opening or hearing my name being called to report somewhere. It will be a new life once I get out of prison, and there will be a set of rules different from those I have dealt with while locked up.

*“You didn’t learn  
the first time.  
Maybe this time  
you’ll learn  
something”*

I envision having a job and making new friends. My new friends will probably be accustomed to going out for a beer or two after work. When they do, I won't be able to join them because I can't drink. I don't want to be in an environment where I could easily slip up.

But as much as I try to be careful, there's always “The Test.”

It will happen one day when one of my new friends edges me on, not understanding that I must abide by a different set of rules.

I'm familiar with this type of peer pressure. The old me had so many tests like this,

brought about when I didn't want to feel left out by not joining the party. Back then I failed those tests by not recognizing how peer pressure made my addiction harder to deal with.

It took me years of incarceration and programs to understand why I felt the way I did. I learned I had abandonment issues and was afraid, and that I wanted to be accepted — to fit in.

My drug and alcohol addiction led me to commit crime after crime. Each time, when I was caught and put in jail, I would beg for help. However, the system wasn't geared to look at my addiction and how I dealt with it differently.

In 1974, a judge told me, “You didn't learn the first time. Maybe this time you'll learn something.” I was sent to prison, where the help I needed was not available, yet drugs were everywhere.

It wasn't that I didn't want to learn as the judge said; I just didn't know what I had to learn. I didn't know about techniques that would help me change my criminal or addictive thinking or how to manage my emotions. That's what addiction does to you, and it's something the criminal justice system needs to understand. Many courts and substance abuse experts have only recently found that ad-

diction is not a crime, but a disease.

Looking back on my life, what I've learned is that it doesn't matter where an addict is — if they ask for help and are not helped, their negative behavior will continue. Addicts who are locked up need more opportunities for treatment. If not, bad choices will continue to negatively affect everybody — guards, prisoners and, once released, the community again.

The solution is not so difficult. No matter the crime, if an individual is suffering from addiction, the best policy is treatment. Treating the addiction would stop the criminal behavior that drives them to support the drug habit. It would make the community safer by default.

Lately, some lifers are being sent back to prison because of substance abuse. They're explaining where they went wrong to the board, to their fellow inmates and to their supporters.

Seeing inmates returned to prison for being under the influence made me consider the idea behind Prop. 36 and the different set of rules applied to convicts and parolees.

All of the lifers who are back because they violated the substance abuse clause in their parole terms must appear before the parole board for a

suitability hearing. The question the board should ask itself is basic: “Did using drugs while on parole make you a danger to public safety?” If the answer it finds is “yes,” the inmate has to reappear before the board in a year and try again. This process can go on indefinitely.

The same dilemma has another feature for lifers who are doing time and need to establish a parole date: If that person is caught using drugs in prison and given a rules violation, then he or she has to explain to the board why they were using drugs and why treatment was not sought.

Most of the time, the board tells the person to get treatment and schedules the next parole date at three years. There's a provision that allows the person to come back in one year, if there are extraordinary circumstances or new evidence to support an earlier hearing. But, in the extreme case, the board is fully authorized to schedule the next hearing 15 years later.

In California, there are multiple ways to deal with addiction, depending on who is evaluating the person and where that person is living. If the addict is on the streets, there is one set of rules. If the person is locked up, there's another.

I end with this question: If someone has cancer and treatment requires several doses of chemotherapy to cure him, is locking him up for treatment necessary?

# State Court Increases Scrutiny of Death Penalty Cases

GOV. BROWN APPOINTED JUDGES CONSIDER NEW FORENSIC TESTIMONY LAW

By Chung Kao  
Staff Writer

In January, the California Supreme Court ruled that the death sentence of a man with a long criminal record was appropriate. On March 11, that ruling was rescinded.

The turnaround came after two justices appointed by Gov.

Jerry Brown, Mariano-Florentino Cuellar and Leondra R. Kruger, were sworn into the court on Jan. 5.

On the date they were sworn in, the previously constituted court issued a 4-3 ruling leaving in place a death sentence for Gary Lee Grimes.

Grimes' lawyer requested the court to reconsider its ruling,

and some anticipated it would. Grimes was convicted of capital murder committed during a home invasion. In the penalty phase of the trial, the trial judge excluded testimony that would have supported evidence that Grimes was not the actual killer, and the judge sentenced him to death.

Cuellar and Kruger joined

the dissenters in deciding to rehear the case in the prior ruling, as did Justices Goodwin Liu, another of Brown's appointees, and Kathryn M. Werdeger. The decision vacated the prior ruling and set the case for a new hearing.

None of the three Brown appointees previously served as judges. Liu and Cuellar were law professors, and Kruger was a U.S. Assistant Attorney General.

The Brown appointees may steer the court to decide to take a second look at another death penalty case, that of William Richards. Liu dissented in a 4-3 decision in 2012 that upheld Richards' murder conviction.

After three trials, Richards was convicted of killing his wife. Two of the trials resulted in hung juries. A dental expert in the third trial identified Richards' bite mark on his wife, but recanted the testimony after the jury returned a guilty verdict.

The California Legislature

later passed a bill adding discredited forensic testimony as grounds for a new trial. The California Innocence Project has asked the California Supreme Court to consider the case again in light of the new law.

*“Brown certainly  
seems to have  
reshaped this  
court in a fairly  
dramatic way”*

“Brown certainly seems to have reshaped this court in a fairly dramatic way,” said Jan Stiglitz, a co-founder of the California Innocence Project. “Brown has brought in not just people from the outside but also people who don't have this background that sort of predisposes them to be cynical in criminal cases.”

## Dedicated Volunteer Backs SQ Programs

### LETTER TO THE EDITOR

From: Susanne Karch

Please accept my congratulations and gratitude for the high quality journalism your paper provides. I'm a volunteer for The Last Mile program, and just as you give voice to prisoners across the state, I'd like to give voice to my experiences here at San Quentin. I live in Marin County where I drove by San Quentin for 25 years without giving much thought to what goes on inside prison.

The men I saw on the first day I volunteered were what people generally expect: men with tattoos and troubled pasts. Then I met the men, talked to them, and they stunned me with how

intelligent and thoughtful they were. Since my first day, I've witnessed human potential at its very best.

I've seen people who have EVERYTHING stacked against them triumph personally by learning skills that every high school and college student should learn. I have witnessed a desire to learn and a level of gratitude for everything received that humbles anything I've seen among my more enlightened Marin friends. I've seen the possibility of what can happen when someone is seen and heard, and given an opportunity to shine.

I'm grateful to The Last Mile for giving so many men this opportunity to shine and



Susanne Karch

for providing me with the occasion to learn about myself. Here's wishing that more and more prisons in the United States see the light and seriously focus on the “R-Word” – Rehabilitation.

To read the full letter, go to [thelastmile.org](http://thelastmile.org).

CORRECTIONS:  
Mach issue Editorial by Arnulfo T. Garcia, Editor-in-Chief, “Figuring out I was in Fact a Gang Member,” it said that Tracy Smith was “... an innocent young woman...” Tracy Smith was an innocent young man.



# Brown Signs Bill to Trim Obstacles for Applicants with Criminal Records

By Thomas Gardner  
Journalism Guild Writer

Gov. Jerry Brown has signed legislation aimed at eliminating obstacles faced by people with criminal records applying for certified nursing assistant licenses.

The measure, Senate Bill 1384, removes the requirement that the state Department of Public Health deny certified nursing assistant licenses for applicants who have certain convictions on their records.

Sen. Holly Mitchell, D-Los Angeles, introduced the bill. It was supported by the San Francisco-based civil rights organization Equal Rights Advocates but was opposed by the health department, according to a report by Sam Levin

of *The East Bay Blog News*, *Seven Days*.

The bill removes the practice of automatic rejections, or mandatory denials, while keeping in place the department's ability to deny individuals found not suitable for certification, Levin reported.

"The blanket exclusion of women who apply for CNA jobs solely on the basis of their conviction history means that they are being punished once again after they have served their time. These are women who ... are rehabilitated, and who are trying to make a living wage to support their families," Mitchell said in a statement.

Under current law, there are approximately 70 offenses, some non-violent, that lead to

an automatic rejection of nursing assistant license, Levin notes.

Supporters of SB 1384 call it a reform and point out that a key element to reducing recidivism is access to employment, and that past criminal convictions do not necessarily dictate that a prospective employee's performance will be less than satisfactory, adds Levin.

"SB 1384 would limit (the health department's) ability to deny a nursing assistant application ... and removes (its) ability to adequately protect patients," says an opposition letter signed by Monica Wagoner, a deputy health department director, according to Levin.

Levin adds some SB 1384 supporters pointed out that

many health-care professions, such as dentists and mental health workers, are not automatically denied licenses or certifications as result of a conviction.

"SB 1384 gives people the chance to prove – through character and employment references, certificates of training and treatment, and other relevant evidence — that they have overcome the significant life obstacles that led to their convictions," Mitchell noted.



California Sen.  
D-Los Angeles Holly Mitchell

## Gobernador Firma Proyecto de ley en Bien de Ex-Convictos

Por Thomas Gardner  
Escritor del Gremio  
Periodístico

El gobernador Jerry Brown ha firmado una legislación dirigida a eliminar los obstáculos

que enfrentan las personas con registro criminal que aplican para obtener licencias certificadas para asistentes de enfermería.

La acción, Senate Bill 1384, elimina el requisito que el De-

partamento de Salud Pública del estado impone y que les niega el derecho a licencias certificadas para asistentes de enfermería a solicitantes que tienen ciertas condenas en su historial criminal.

Senadora Holly Mitchell, D-Los Angeles, presento la póliza. Esta fue apoyada por la organización de derechos civiles, Defensores de la Igualdad de Derechos, con base en San Francisco, pero fue bloqueada por el departamento de salud, de acuerdo a un reporte de Sam Levin del *East Bay Blog News*, *Seven Days*.

Levin informo, que esta póliza elimina la práctica de rechazos automáticos o negaciones obligatorias, mientras el departamento retiene su capacidad para negar la certificación de individuos que no son elegibles.

"La exclusión general de las mujeres que solicitan empleo en la CNA basados únicamente en su historial delictivo significa que están siendo castigadas nuevamente, después de haber cumplido sus sentencias. Estas son mujeres que...están rehabilitadas, y que están tratando de ganarse la vida para sustentar a sus familias," Mitchell comento en un comunicado.

Levin comento que, bajo la ley actual, existen aproximadamente 70 ofensas, algunas no incluyen violencia, que llevan a una rechazo automático de una licencia para asistente de enfermería.

Levin agrego que, partidarios

del SB 1384 exigen una reforma y señalan que un elemento clave para reducir la reincidencia es el acceso a un empleo, y que condenas criminales previas no necesariamente indican que el desempeño del posible empleado será menos satisfactorio.

"SB 1384 limitara la habilidad del (departamento de salud) para negar una solicitud de asistente de enfermería...y por lo cual retira (su) capacidad para proteger adecuadamente a pacientes" indica una carta de oposición firmada por Monica Wagoner, representante del director del departamento de salud, de acuerdo a Levin.

Levin añade que algunos partidarios del SB 1384 señalan que profesiones de asistencia médica, tales como dentistas y trabajadores de salud mental, no niegan automáticamente licencias o certificaciones como resultado de una convicción.

"SB 1384 otorga una oportunidad a la gente de probar - a través de carácter y referencias de trabajo, certificados de entrenamiento y tratamiento, y otra evidencia relevante - que han superado los obstáculos mas importantes de sus vidas que los llevaron a sus condenas," Mitchell agrego.

—Traducción Tare Beltranchuc

## Proposed Bill May Give Elderly Prisoners a Chance at Early Parole

By Kevin D. Sawyer  
Journalism Guild Chairman

A newly proposed bill would give more elderly inmates serving long sentences and indeterminate (life) sentences an early chance at parole if it becomes law.

Senate Bill 224 (SB 224), the Elderly Parole Program, introduced in February by Senator Carol Liu, D-Glendale, and co-authored by Mark Leno, D-San Francisco, is one more piece of legislation in a string of laws written to help reduce the size of California's state prison population.

The proposed legislation says in part, "This bill would establish the Elderly Parole Program, for prisoners who are 50 years of age or older, who

have served 15 years of their sentence."

Legislation for the existing Elderly Parole Program also came in response to prison overcrowding. In a class action case, *Coleman v. Brown*, the federal court issued an order requiring the state to "implement an Elderly Parole Program so that prisoners who are 60 years of age or older and who have been incarcerated 25 years on their current sentence will be referred to the Board of Parole Hearings (BPH) to determine suitability for parole."

On October 1, 2014, the BPH implemented the existing Elderly Parole Program.

Two years ago the CDCR reported that there were 27,580 inmates 50 years of age and older. At the same time the number

of inmates who were 55 years of age and older was 14,856.

In the 15-year period between 1995 and 2010 the population of prisoners 55 years of age and older increased four times, Human Rights Watch reported. It estimated that by the year 2030 one-third of the prison population will be seniors.

"The bill (SB 224) would require the Board of Parole Hearings to consider whether a prisoner will qualify for the program when determining the prisoner's next parole suitability hearing," the proposed legislation says.

Those interested in this bill may contact their state assembly member and state senator at <http://assemblymembers.and http://senate.ca.gov/senators>.

## Governor Aims to Change California Supreme Court

Continued from Page 1

named to the court, was recalled by voters in an election in 1986.

This time around Brown has made three more nominations to the court. His choices "were the product of a long search that included consultations with two members of the U.S. Supreme Court," *The New York Times* wrote.

"I was looking for people who you could say were 'learned in the law' – a phrase you might not hear too much anymore," said Brown. "I put the word out: Are there people who are scholars or of un-

usual ability?"

"The three nominees share certain characteristics: They are quite young, they have impeccable qualifications and they are by all accounts brilliant," said Erwin Chemerinsky, dean of the law school at the University of California, Irvine.

Like Bird, none of the three people Brown nominated had ever served a day as a judge. Justices Goodwin Liu and Mariano-Florentino Cuéllar were law professors, and Justice Leandra R. Kruger was an associate attorney general. They are all under 45 and are all graduates of the Yale Law

School.

"There is always a tension between appointing people who have already been judges and appointing people who have not previously been judges, but I think that's an interesting balance for any court to have," said Margaret H. Marshall, a former chief justice of the Massachusetts Supreme Judicial Court.

Brown's selections have also brought diversified backgrounds to the court. Liu is the child of Taiwanese parents; Cuéllar was born in Mexico; and Kruger is the first African-American to serve on the court since 2005.

Kruger's confirmation has restored the court to a female majority.

"Legal scholars said that aside from Brown's effort to inject more intellectual heft to the court, they expected that these appointments would move the court to the left," *The New York Times* wrote.

For Brown, the new appointments were like "an opportunity for a bit of a do-over after the troubled appointment of Ms. Bird," opined *The New York Times*.

A 2007 study by the University of California, Davis, Law Review said that the California Supreme Court was the

most influential in the nation, having been cited the most by other courts in the preceding 65 years.

With the new appointments, "the court is well poised to really make a mark," said Gerald F. Uelman, a professor at the Santa Clara University School of Law. "And, I think that is what Gov. Brown is looking for: leaving a legacy that will restore the luster of the Supreme Court he knew when he clerked for the court."

In his four terms as governor, Brown has appointed 11 justices to the state Supreme Court.



# Senators Question Brown On \$1 Billion Prison Plan

*“When, if ever, will the state be able to reduce prison spending?”*

By Wesley R. Eisiminger  
Staff Writer

State senators are questioning Gov. Jerry Brown's budget plan to hike prison spending by \$1 billion despite a decrease of 40,000 prisoners.

***“Where is the  
Realignment  
dividend?”***

“When, if ever, will the state be able to reduce prison spending?” Sen. Mark Leno, D-San Francisco, asked at a Jan. 27 hearing of the Senate

Budget Committee, which he chairs.

“Where is the Realignment dividend?” added Vice Chair Jim Nielsen, R-Chico, an opponent of Brown's Realignment plan that shifted responsibility for some low-level crimes from state prisons to county jails.

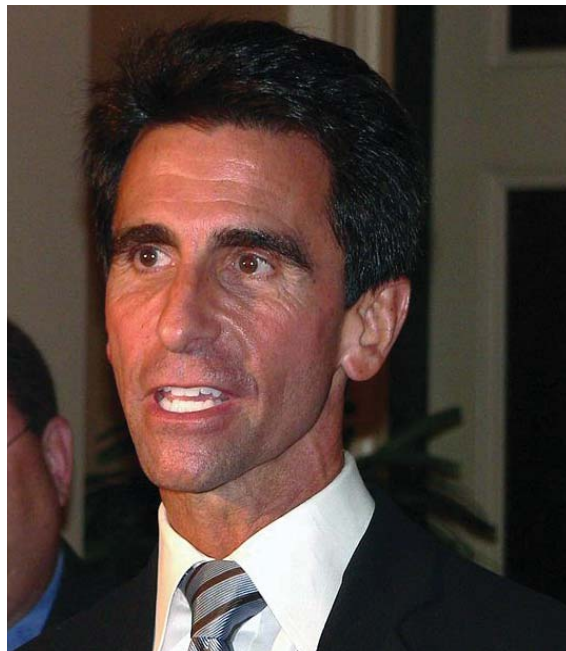
Leno asked representatives of the Department of Finance why the Brown administration is requesting double the staff at the new health care prison facility in Stockton that provides long-term medical care and mental health treatment to inmates, according to a report by Jim Lindburg of Californians United for a Responsible Budget, who attended the hearing.

Lindburg reported the ad-

ministration officials replied by saying that the planning of the new medical prison did not allow for the physical plant design of the large number of high acuity beds.

Sen. Holly Mitchell, D-Los Angeles, has questioned the Brown administration revenue estimates, which have been a lot lower than state revenue in past years, Lindburg wrote.

Mitchell later said the administration has drawn criticism from others for failing to “restore many of the \$15 billion in cuts to safety net programs since the Great Recession.” This is not poverty reduction,” Mitchell declared. “This is poverty maintenance.”



File Photo

California Sen. D-San Francisco  
Mark Leno leaving a conference

## Victims' Rights Group Files Single-Drug Execution Suit California Is Home to the Largest Death Row Population in the Country

By Isaiah Thompson-Bonilla  
Journalism Guild Writer

California must find a way to execute condemned prisoners without using a controversial three-drug lethal injection procedure, a Sacramento judge has ruled.

Corrections officials cannot wait any longer to find a new way to conduct executions if they are reinstated, said Sacramento Superior Court Judge Shellyanne Chang, as reported by The Associated Press.

A lawsuit filed by crime victims is asking that the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation quickly adopt new procedures in which executions can

be carried out. The procedure being sought is single drug (barbiturate only) system.

Chang did find that the CDCR does have the responsibility of finding a new system but made it clear that it also has sole discretion as to how the procedure will be carried out.

The AP reported that Gov. Jerry Brown said in April 2012 that the state would switch to a single-drug lethal injection. At present, California has not received a single drug lethal injection cocktail, the report said.

In response to the single-drug procedure, department spokeswoman Deborah Hoffman said, the department is reviewing the ruling. The rul-

ing is not yet final. However, it will take effect if officials are unable to change Chang's decision.

***“This is an area  
that has been  
evolving in the  
law, whether  
victims have any  
rights at all”***

A victims' rights organization is responsible for filing the suit on behalf of two family members of murder victims, citing that they are

affected by the delays.

The argument is that eight other states are using a court-approved one-drug process for lethal injections and that California should align itself with those states.

The tentative ruling has been received as a victory for crime victims, according to Kent Scheidegger, legal director for the Sacramento-based Criminal Justice Legal Foundation.

“This is an area that has been evolving in the law, whether victims have any rights at all,” he said.

This ruling answers that question in the affirmative. Victims do have rights when it comes to influencing state policies, he added.

What was not mentioned is that even if the ruling is adopted, there are still many barriers that could stop executions. For some time now, the length of time in which a Death Row inmate spends locked up and awaiting lethal injection, amounts to cruel and unusual punishment, U.S. District Judge Cormac Carney ruled in July 2014.

California is home to the largest Death Row population in the country. While state officials continue to fight for reinstatement of the lethal injections, no definitive information has been disseminated on the matter.

The report stated that Attorney General Kamala Harris is appealing the ruling.

## Changing Your Life Should Start While You Are in Prison

*Continued from Page 1*

as a police officer in Oakland, but later spent 20 years inside San Quentin State Prison for second-degree murder.

He has returned to San Quentin several times, encouraging inmates to turn their lives around and to join outside rehabilitation programs, such as those he works with.

After being free for nearly 11 years, Butler spoke Feb. 13 to the Journalism Guild – a group of prisoners who write articles for the *San Quentin News*.

### HISTORY IN PRISON

As a source of inspiration, he discussed the history of his case and how life in San Quentin from 1984 to 2004 motivated him to change into a better man.

“The very first time I stepped foot inside my cell, I took one look around and told myself, ‘I don’t belong here,’” said Butler.

From that point forward, Butler was determined to gain

his freedom by all positive means necessary.

“I surrounded myself with like-minded people, and associated with other men who shared my goals and commitments.”

He made a pact with another inmate, promising that they both would work hard to get out of prison.

### PROGRAMS

Butler took advantage of many of the programs San Quentin has to offer. “San Quentin is considered the Mecca for programs in the prison system,” he said.

He spent a lot of time in the prison law library, studying and doing research. He eventually started working inside the library.

He explained how he was denied parole numerous times. “Every time I was denied parole, I would challenge it in court,” said Butler.

Even when he didn’t win relief at the board or in the courts, he said he still managed to learn something new. “I believe in order for you to

be successful, you have to be resilient,” said Butler.

He told Journalism Guild writers that he kept both the district attorney and the police officer who arrested him abreast of his rehabilitative efforts and progress in prison.

### SUPPORT SYSTEM

He emphasized the importance of networking and maintaining a support system. “When you get out of prison, you’re going to need some type of support,” said Butler. “If you don’t have a support system, then create one.”

The police officer who arrested Butler was promoted to captain. This same captain wrote a support letter to the parole board saying he felt Butler was no longer a threat to society.

On Aug. 17, 2004, Butler was granted parole and released by then-Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger.

Since his release, Butler, now 60, has achieved many accomplishments on his road to redemption. He has established himself as a commu-

nity activist involved in community programs such as Men of Valor, a transitional housing program for parolees.

### MEN OF VALOR

He proudly revealed that former lifer and *San Quentin News* staff member Watani Stiner is currently occupying one of the beds at Men of Valor.

Butler also works for a community program called the Cypress Mandela Training Center (CMTC), based in Oakland.

CMTC is a pre-apprenticeship construction training program that began in 1993 in response to the 1989 San Francisco Bay Area Loma Prieta earthquake.

The program provides training, certification and employment in a wide array of construction trades such as carpentry, ironworkers, cement masons, operating engineers and green-collar jobs.

CMTC is available to all members of the public, including ex-felons. Construction jobs are union jobs and

begin at \$18 an hour.

### RECIDIVISM

Butler talked about how lifers have the lowest recidivism rate of committing new crimes and returning back to prison.

“The success rate of the guys we work with is very good,” said Butler.

“People who get out and get into his program get treated with respect,” said Arnulfo T. Garcia, editor-in-chief of the *San Quentin News*. “I’ve got a lot of respect for the man. He keeps coming back.”

“What is character?” Butler asked. “Knowledge builds character... it’s never a waste of time,” he continued. “A man with real character is the same way all the time, even when he thinks no one is watching ....and you never know who is watching.”

The CMTC website is [www.cypressmandela.org](http://www.cypressmandela.org).

**–Contributing writers to this article: Wesley R. Eisiminger, Rudy Moralez, Marcus Henderson and Kevin D. Sawyer**



# PUP’s Art History Class Takes a Field Trip

**By Tommy Winfrey  
Arts Editor**

A college class consisting of prisoners going on a field trip inside the prison is almost impossible to imagine, but Patten University at San Quentin’s Art History class did just that.

Thanks to the generosity of the artists housed inside San Quentin, students were able to view artwork first hand in the prison’s art studio.

Kara Urion, Program Director for the Prison University Program, arranged for the class to take the field trip. “I think to be able to utilize the visual analysis skills they learned in class on their peers’ artwork is important,” said Urion.

The Art History class, led by instructors Mathew Culler, Elizabeth Eager and Grace Harpster, hopes to teach students to “gain a familiarity with the major movements, artists and events in the history of western art since the Renaissance,” according to their syllabus.

The art studio in San Quentin used to be named “Arts-in-Corrections,” but the program was shelved by the state in 2010



Photo by Sam Hearn

Instructor Grace Harpster explaining the angles of the artwork that is displayed



Photo by Sam Hearn

James Norton putting close touch-ups on a painting



Photo by Sam Hearn

Phoeun You asking the instructor about the contrast of a painting

after budget cuts. The art studio was kept open after losing state funding due to work of the nonprofit William James Association.

Recently, the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation has once again started to fund art programs within prisons by distributing funds to nonprofits such as the William James Association.

Inside the art studio at San Quentin prisoners paint, draw, block print, build dioramas and make music.

“The art was pretty amazing. There was one block print that jumped out at me. I was blown away,” said prisoner Eddie Herena after viewing the artwork in the art studio.

One of the art projects that students analyzed in the art

studio is a mural that is being constructed and will eventually be mounted on one of the walls in a dining hall at San Quentin.

“We looked at the mural and discussed perspective while comparing different styles that the artists used to create it,” said Herena, adding, “We also talked about what the artists were trying to say with

their work.”

“I was happy to see that our instructor was able to view some of the high-quality art being produced at San Quentin,” said student Carlos Flores.

“All of my teachers know what they’re talking about. I enjoy listening to them teach because they bring their passion into the conversation,”

said Herena.

“Arts-in-Corrections was the perfect place for our art history class to discuss how being in the presence of an artwork alters our perception of its meaning,” Harpster said. “Material, scale, display context, technique — this all matters in a work of art, whether produced in the 19<sup>th</sup> century or present-day San Quentin.”



Photo by Sam Hearn

Prisoners working on personal artwork

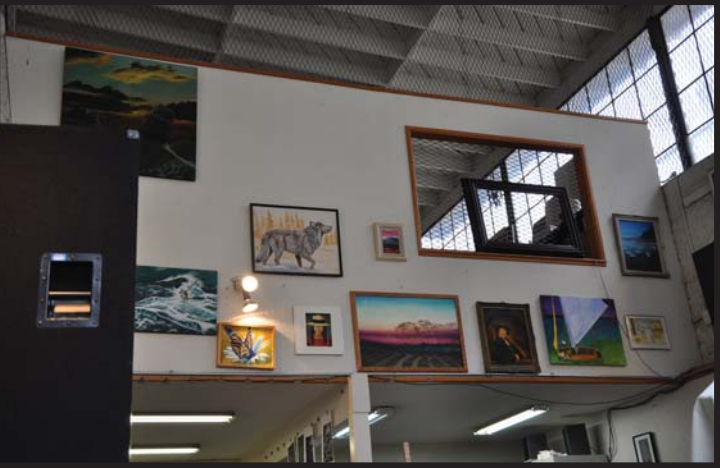


Photo by Sam Hearn

Photo of paintings that are displayed in the Art-in-Corrections room



# Last Mile's Aspiring Entrepreneur

Continued from Page 1

Vinh Nguyen, referring to the circumstances that led him to commit first-degree murder. Nguyen's proposal was an application that helps young people identify and process their emotions during stress-

ful times. The application, "Moodringer," monitors the wearer's vital signs to alert the wearer of elevated levels; it also sends an instant notification to the wearer's "support team," a group of people with close ties to the wearer. "This device will give young

people a tool that could prevent them from making the same mistake I made," Nguyen said. "You are only a ring away from mindfulness." According to California Lieutenant Governor Gavin Newsom, who attended the presentation, TLM is essen-

tial because it equips inmates with the necessary skills to keep up with a swiftly advancing global society. "Ten years ago, Twitter was still a sound. Facebook didn't exist. The cloud was in the sky. 4G was a parking space. LinkedIn was a prison. Those things didn't exist. Now they're ubiquitous in our lives," Newsom said. "Unless you have the skills that can adapt to that new reality — and programs like TLM provide those new, fresh skills of tomorrow — you're not going to fare well."

"A vast majority of these people are going to be back out on the streets, and we want them educated, and we want them empowered, and want them to have the kind of confidence they're going to need to enter a workforce that's radically changing day in and day out," Newsom added.

TLM is the brainchild of venture capitalists Beverly Parenti and Chris Redlitz and provides inmates with the opportunity to develop innovative business concepts.

Parenti and Redlitz "invented something from nothing," said TLM board member John Hamm. "They got things that impeded the program out of the way. They never considered giving up. They are the most humble and committed people I've ever met."

Parenti said the purpose behind TLM originally was to reduce recidivism and reduce the cost of prison spending. They have since expanded the program to include a computer coding class, called Code 7370. "The results are exceeding expectations and show what is possible in a prison setting," she said. Code 7370 is

scheduled to have its first graduation on April 11. Redlitz said he advises TLM participants to be passionate; then, "they swim in a shark tank in a professional manner," Redlitz said. "In the community, they're transformed into confident professionals."

Indeed, confident and professional was the theme of the presentations. Entrepreneur and musician MC Hammer, who was in the audience, said the presentations were well thought-out. "These men are professionals," he said.

The men's business proposals covered a wide range of topics. Participant Azraal Ford said he wanted to create an online community called "My Tribe," a social network where ex-bullys, wants to give the teenage community a forum to express themselves fully.

"Schooligans would allow teens to identify with the same struggles they're having," Ford said. Participating teenagers would be able to connect with other teenagers via online messaging. Reginald Hola created "My Tribe," a social network with online tools to understand and present one's own profile, complete with generations of family. "A person without knowledge of his history is waiting for you," he said. "My Tribe is home to everyone. A tribe is waiting for you."

Sam Hearn was inspired to create "The Village" to help locate missing persons, because he lost a child. The Village aims to upload critical information and to update both law enforcement and the public. "Village Angels," in a more time-consuming process, is an animated, 3D model of a person.

"The first three hours are critical in finding a missing person," Jason James presented his application, which monitors the grades of high school students. Academically are rewarded with the William Heisman Trophy. The application provides a platform to learn while focusing on their athletic pursuits. "Combat Chess" is an animated, 3D model of a person, created from favorite action figures. It's a virtual chess game.

"VocaLock," a voice-activated fire alarm system, was also presented.



Photo by Harold Meeks

Azraal Ford



Photo by Harold Meeks

Keith Wroten



Sam Hearn



Photo by Harold Meeks

Chung Kao



Vinh Nguyen



# urs Pitch Start-Ups on Demo Day

April 20. wants to build businesses based on their link and learn how to present their ideas “In the end, when the men return to the confident businessmen.” as how the men appeared. According to a longtime TLM adviser, all the presentmen are committed,” Hammer said. a wide range of social needs. ed to confront high school peer pressure d “Schooligans.” Ford, a self-identified munity a safe, online support system and identify with others who are having the d. to create their own profiles and connect ng, Ford said. social media platform that provides users ervice their cultures. Families create their of family documentation. history is like a tree without roots,” Hola rcribe can say where your heart is. A tribe

**The Village,**” an online command center his own father was abducted when he was ical information regarding missing perit and select members of the community, efficient manner. nding missing children,” Hearnese said. n “**Getting Parents’ Attention**” (GPA), school student athletes. Those who excel iseman Trophy, not to be mistaken for ovides students with interactive ways to rsuits at the same time. blitz-speed chess game with characters also a spectator sport for an online audi- m trigger lock that is password-protect-

ed, was created by participant Chung Kao. It comes complete with a GPS and is tamper-proof.

Participant A. Terrell Merritt brought to the table “**Windows of Praise,**” a social media platform that allows church choirs to compete against one another in an American Idol-like event. The platform’s slogan is “Look in, Listen, and Be Inspired.” TLM graduates are testament to the effectiveness of the lessons learned through the program. Chrisfino Kenyatta Leal, Darnell Hill, James Houston and Heracio Harts, all past graduates of TLM, are currently out of prison, employed and applying the skillset learned in TLM to their daily work lives.

Leal is employed at RocketSpace, a San Francisco-based tech incubator.

Hill works as an advertising agent with ePantry. Houston is a youth coordinator in Richmond, serving as a mentor to at-risk teenage boys and girls.

“I started taking programs to show my son that people can change. I found my voice and used it to help all those around me,” Houston said. “My passion was helping the youth avoid the problems that caused me to come to prison.”

Harts is a salesperson for an Internet marketing firm called Doz.

“In order for dreams to come true, all the preparation means nothing, unless you execute the action,” Harts said regarding his training through TLM.

Several business executives who mentor TLM participants applauded the work that graduates accomplished and encouraged the

potential behind these ideas. “The potential for growth in this industry is incredible. All you need is hard work and persistence,” said keynote speaker B. Bonin Bough, vice president of Global Media and Consumer Engagement at Mondelez. “The skillset that you’re learning are

sought after as talent to build businesses.” MC Hammer acknowledged the band “Contagious” and Emily Mesko who provided the music for the event. James Cavitt also performed his spoken word piece, “Where I Live,” which described free-

dom not as a tangible place, but instead a mindset. *San Quentin News* thanks Nancy Mullane, independent reporter and producer of *The Life of the Law*, [www.lifeofthelaw.org](http://www.lifeofthelaw.org), who recorded the quotes of Lt. Governor Gavin Newsom.



Photo by Harold Meeks

A. Terrell Merritt



Photo by Harold Meeks

Jason James



Photo by Harold Meeks

Nguyen



Photo by Harold Meeks

Reginald Hola



Arts & Entertainment



Tokyo resident Nina McNamara, age 2½, takes her copy of the San Quentin News to the Maruko Sanno Hie Shinto Shrine near her apartment to practice her English. Nina is the daughter of Yoko and Morgan McNamara and granddaughter of Kay McNamara and SQ News adviser Steve McNamara.

Snippets

Chocolatier reportedly produced the World's largest egg. It was made with at least 50,000 chocolate bars and measured 27.3 ft. high, and 4,299 pounds. Twenty six Guilian master chocolate makers were credited for making the egg in eight days.

Hares differ from rabbits in size. Hares are noticeably larger than rabbits and they do not burrow.

Onops domesticus is a tiny pink spider that lives in European homes. It lays the least amount of spider eggs than any other spider, which is only two.

Cut some flowers and put them in a vase and add a spoon full of sugar. It is said that this will prolong the life of your flowers.

Orchids are considered the largest family of flowering plants with over 100,000 different purebreds and hybrids. 800 different new species of plants are created each year.

Lots of Gideons Bibles are distributed throughout the U.S. Other than hotel rooms, the Bible is passed out to members of the military, hospitals, nursing homes and prisons.

Anglo-Saxon's language for the name God means good.

The largest Easter egg hunt was recorded in 2007 by the Guinness Book of World Record was held in Cypress Gardens. It's a theme park close to Winter Haven, FL, and 510,000 eggs were hidden all around the park. All eggs were collected in less than one hour.

Easter comes in a close second place to Halloween for the most candy-eating occasion of the year. According to the National Confectioner's Association, Americans eat 7 billion pounds of candy in 2001.



Holly Clevenger standing in front of the Liberty Bell in Philadelphia, Pa., the City of Brotherly Love.



A wonderful lady whose name will remain unknown sends in her photo all the way from Puerto Vallarta.

Last Issue's Sudoku Solution

6	8	1	7	4	9	2	3	5
5	9	2	1	8	3	6	7	4
4	3	7	5	6	2	9	8	1
7	5	4	6	9	1	8	2	3
1	6	9	3	2	8	4	5	7
3	2	8	4	7	5	1	9	6
2	1	6	8	5	7	3	4	9
9	4	5	2	3	6	7	1	8
8	7	3	9	1	4	5	6	2

7	8	9	1	2	3	4	5	6
2	5	3	6	4	8	7	1	9
6	4	1	9	5	7	3	2	8
9	3	8	2	7	4	1	6	5
1	6	2	5	3	9	8	7	4
5	7	4	8	6	1	9	3	2
8	2	7	4	1	6	5	9	3
3	9	5	7	8	2	6	4	1
4	1	6	3	9	5	2	8	7

Sudoku Corner

	3	1		5			7	
5					9			
		9			2		3	5
1			8				2	4
		6		2		3		
8	4				5			7
6	1		2			5		
			5					6
	8			9		7	4	

	4			1				
3	8	5						
1	7		5					9
	1			9	5	6		
		8		2		9		
		7	8	3			4	
9					1		7	2
					3	9	4	
				5			1	



# Freedom Is a Relationship, Not a Thing

By Watani Stiner  
SQ News Columnist

By the time this article goes to print in April, I will have been out of prison for 90 days. If you'll notice, I did not say that I have been "free" for 90 days. Freedom is perhaps one of the most difficult subjects one could write about. It is a subtle concept, a concept that requires context to ground it or it becomes entirely ambiguous and elusive. Freedom is not an object or thing. Freedom is essentially a relationship. There are relationships that reflect the demeaning and oppressive environments they arise from (like prisons, human exploitation, abusive marriages, and wars); and others that are mutually beneficial and allow one to exercise his or her creative potential, make meaningful contributions and to flourish in the context of family, community, society and true friendships.

Twenty-one years after my voluntary surrender I have suddenly been deemed suitable for parole, declared "no longer a danger to society." My insistence of innocence hasn't changed one iota during the

## An 'OG's' Perspective



Watani Stiner in front of Sproul Hall at U.C. Berkley

two decades since my voluntary return. I consistently maintained that the 1969 shootout on the UCLA campus in which two human beings tragically lost their lives (and I was convicted) was not the result of any "conspiracy!" Now, after two

decades of captivity, the parole board has finally set me "free." Of course I'm thrilled to be out of prison and fortunate enough to be surrounded by so many of my family and friends, but like my son has stated in a recent article about that rearview mir-

ror, "I can still see smoke rising from the wreckage behind me." The pleasures I have on this side of the wall are burdened with the years and years of loss and aggressive obstruction of relationships exacted by the prison system.

The freedom I am now experiencing cannot be measured by how far removed I am from the walls of San Quentin State Prison nor by the inhumane treatment so pervasive in prison life. Freedom *from* those kinds of relationships, though important enough, is far less important to me than the freedom to *reclaim* my once captured life and be with my family and community. Each day I realize my freedom through my renewed relationship with my children: the freedom to embrace them, to hear their stories and to be fully present in their lives. That's the type of freedom I choose to write about for this column. I celebrate that freedom, at the same time that I mourn the huge pieces of my life, which I

can never get back.

No matter how much freedom you have or think you have, a lost relationship with your children can never be retrieved even when you are released from prison. No matter how hard I try, I can never recover the missed birthdays, prompts, late night chats, inside jokes, graduations and marriages. Because of my incarceration I lost the ability to be the father I could have been. Paradoxically, prison also was never able to cage the unbreakable connection that I have with my children and family. In some sense, I remained free throughout my incarceration through our mutual love – even when I spent years without being able to even communicate with them.

The origin of the word "free" comes from a word meaning "to love." It is the same word that "friend" comes from. I want to focus on this meaning of freedom, and not the shallow definition it usually has in American culture: having lots of options and doing whatever you want. Freedom is relationship, and it is something close to the heart of every human being.

## PIA Prison Jobs Can Lead to Later Careers

By Marcus Henderson  
Journalism Guild Writer

For inmates, California Prison Industry Authority jobs are one way to sustain a livelihood while behind bars and after release.

CALPIA employs a select group of inmates. Out of California's 116,000 inmates in 35 prisons, just under 7,000 are employed with CALPIA, according to a report by Lisa Morehouse/NPR for KPBS.

California State Prison-

Corcoran in California's Central Valley is a high-security prison that supplies milk for most California state prisons. Since the dairy operation is located outside the prison's secure perimeter, only low-risk inmates are utilized.

"Our payoff as an organization is to employ inmates and teach them a job skill, so that when they are released, they can get out there and sustain a living," said Rob Roehlk, who oversees the dairy and milk processing at Corcoran.

The dairy sits on 30 acres of land. The inmates earn 35 to 95 cents an hour working five days a week at various jobs.

Most inmates coming from urban areas lack experience at working with animals or agriculture.

"They come in and they haven't really seen a cow before, haven't milked a cow before." Some inmates come from a construction background; some have experience operating

heavy equipment. "We just build on it," Roehlk told Morehouse.

The milk processing facility allows inmates to earn a number of licenses used in processing milk. These inmates work in the labs testing milk for bacteria.

"I've never been involved in things like this, but I would like to pursue it back in society," said Corcoran inmate Edward Wilson.

There is no firm data on how many former inmates ultimately get employed in the fields in

which they worked while incarcerated.

The PIA agency does suggest that CALPIA inmate employees return to prison about 30 percent less frequently than the general prison population.

The NPR report noted, however, that it's hard to compare the two estimates since the PIA workers are carefully selected.

Still, no matter what the data says, inmate Wilson maintains a positive outlook about finding a job in his field.

## San Quentin Kairos Legend Brian Arnold Passes

Brian Arnold  
died Sat., Feb 21.

Arnold was a part of Kairos, a Christian ministry brought into San Quentin and other prisons all over the world by volunteers and residents serving to share their love of Christ.

"I've known Brian since group 42," inmate Clinton Martin said. "Brian taught me how to be a man and Christian and be both together."

Martin added that Arnold loved to play harmless practical jokes on his friends.

"Brian would tell people to do things, knowing they'd be uncomfortable doing them, and he'd sit back and laugh. He was a jokester. It's a bittersweet day. I'm sad he's no longer with us, but there's no doubt, he's in heaven with the Father right now."

"The three best words to describe Brian," Martin said, "are faith, beauty and love."

Kairos, a mix of interdenominational Christians, is organized with well-trained teams of men and women from Christian communities surrounding San Quentin. They present a three-day weekend, described as a

short course in Christianity. Chaplains within San Quentin select up to 42 inmates to attend.

Inmate Kimani Randall said that he first met Arnold in Kai-

ros group 39.

"He was a wonderful individual," Randall said. "He was down to earth, very loving authentic. That's what gravitated

me to him the most," adding, "He was funny. He kept me laughing. I don't do too much laughing, but he kept me laughing and brought joy to my day.



Family Photo

Brian Arnold taking time out to just relax on a boat in the middle of a lake

Whenever I went to a reunion I looked forward to seeing him."

Kairos members, outside and inside San Quentin, continue to gather for monthly reunions. In addition to inside weekends, Kairos provides "Kairos Outside" weekends for wives, girlfriends, daughters and sisters of incarcerated men and "Torch" weekends for youth offenders.

Randall said the best way to describe Arnold is that he was "caring, non-judgmental and funny."

"Brian was very intelligent and gifted," Kairos volunteer Ronald Lew said. "He would give himself to anyone who was ready. He showed me how a person should act."

"Brian taught me many lessons in loving and letting go," Lew said. "He also corrected me in my thinking and understanding in how I viewed things in my little world."

He is survived by his wife, Alison Arnold; son Joe Hughes; his brother, Jerere Arnold and his wife, Denise; nephews Daniel Arnold and Ronnie Arnold; nieces Tangina Sarnold, Jessica Borberg, Sena, Cara and Jordan Hughes; and his father-in-law Lawrence Hughes.







# Jennifer Richter's 'Threshold' of Poetry

By Juan Haines  
Managing Editor

When I read fiction, there is a pleasure in traveling through an author's character development, a new plot twist, and that authentic *boom* of good storytelling. However, when I read poetry, it's an investment in learning about my emotions. Poetry puts me at the edge of life, moves me in ways no other pedantic pursuit could.

Through poetry, I always discover words and phrases that warm my heart — words that I want to repeat, mostly to those I cherish. It is poetry that allows me to embrace tenderness in this place, where it is sometimes so hard to find.

When I got my hands on *Threshold*, a collection of poems by Jennifer Richter (2010), I went through it with the same questions I always ask of anthologies: What is the theme and why?

Richter's struggle with life and death, while being a mother

## BOOK REVIEW



and wife, made *recovery* a re-occurring theme in the anthology. That it took six sections to complete *Threshold* may not be incidental, as the seventh day is needed for *recovery*.

"To me, the *Recovery* poems are the real backbone of the book," Richter said in an interview. "The manuscript didn't feel grounded enough, whole enough, till I realized that each section needed to end with a *Recovery* poem."

*Recovery* to Richter means more than simply getting back to a natural state.

Through Richter's poetry,

readers are able to grasp her perspective of what it means to endure. She is serious about life and the challenges that rise up against it.

Readers learn they must invest themselves in order to understand the rehabilitative value of projecting the emotional roller-coaster of fighting for one's life. It is a fight that is deeply personal for Richter and that has made *Recovery* a poetic reality in her own life — seen in her struggle to overcome cancer and recover from chemotherapy.

*Recovery 3* made me appreciate Richter's bravery and strength.

It forced me to consider *Threshold* in unexpected, ways: *Now you can't break down... People are waiting for you.* Lingering on *Recovery 3*'s purposely placed line breaks draws readers into Richter's sensations and intense stoicism.

Nevertheless, even in Rich-

ter's stiff *recovery*, she recognizes at the last minute what you can't part with and rushing to it, out there. Her lyric poetry defines its own beauty by valuing family above all, which makes

**Threshold:**  
*where mothers prop themselves, welcoming, waving, mostly wanting. You are a frame your child passes through, the safest place to stand when the shaking starts. You brace yourself. He draws you like this, arms straight out, too stick-thin but the hands are perfect, splayed like suns, long fingers, the hands he draws for you are huge. Threshold: separate the seeds, gather them back. In his pictures you all come close to holding hands, though the fingers of your family never touch; you're in the middle of all this reaching.*

hearing, *you'll be fine*, seem comforting in spite of the pain.

The insight contained in *The Last Word* shows Richter's ability to understand that faith is the guiding force behind a full recovery.

*Spring, and It Starts to Snow:* is a moment in time when you think that you're a life giver, but reality snaps you back to the here and now, and *It's hard sometimes, to live.*

*What Is My Body Without You:* This poem gives readers the sense of what childbearing is like, emotionally. Richter guides us through her entire pregnancy—leading up to that moment in time when she watches her child leave her body to be in this world — an awesome moment.

I come away from *Threshold* with a sense of intimately knowing Richter's mindset as a mother and wife conflicting with all the struggles that a life-threatening illness brings — which made me understand, in a deeper sense, what it truly means to *recover*.

# What Was Your Favorite Easter Moment Like?

## Asked On The Line

By Angelo Falcone  
Journalism Guild Writer

April is the first of four months with only 30 days.

April Fools' Day is the first day of the month. Mid-month on April 15, income tax returns are due. Officially, April 22 is Administrative Assistants Day — little noted except by administrators and their employees.

For the Christian community, April holds significant celebrations. On Thursday, April 2, it is Holy Thursday, on Friday, April 3, it is Good Friday, on Saturday, April 4, it is Holy Saturday, and on Sunday, April 5, it is Easter Sunday. Moreover, on Sunday, April 12, Christians observe Divine Mercy Sunday.

For the Jewish community,

Passover begins at sundown on Friday, April 3.

According to the World Almanac, April is National Child Abuse Prevention Month, National Humor Month and Stress Awareness Month.

The two astrological signs in April are Aries, the sign of the Ram (March 21 to April 19) and Taurus, the sign of the Bull (April 20 to May 20). According to the Jewelry Industry Council, the birthstone for April is the diamond.

Easter is a celebration that many of the men in blue celebrated with their families, so it brings back good memories. Asked on the Line posed two questions to mainliners: "What was your favorite Easter activity? What was your Easter din-

ner like?"

Jesus Flores said that he loved the family reunions during Easter. "When I was a kid, Easter was a big celebration, like Christmas, and we always got dressed up and went to church on Easter morning. Then, we came home to have lunch and visit with relatives and then had a big dinner. My favorite thing to eat was all the Easter candy!" said Flores.

Juan Arballo said, "We used to go to a procession in a small town about 3km from where we lived. I liked it because they made it look real, like the Passion of the Christ. We used to eat Mexican staples like enchiladas, carnitas, cueritos (boiled pig skin) and chicharrones with salsa and lemon."

Eddie Herena said, "When I reflect on my Easter experiences as a kid, religion was not a part of it, but I really liked

going to the park with my family. We used to eat barbecue. I loved the barbecue."

Tim Thompson recalled, "When I was younger, I used to go to Sunday School and then we'd have Easter egg hunts. I would like eating the Easter eggs."

Phil Phillips said that during Easter he loved to sleep in because it was one of the few times he didn't have to get up early. "We'd have boiled eggs for Easter egg hunts, but I didn't like them. I liked chocolate eggs."

David Le explained, "My family is not Christian; we are Buddhists. But I liked the Easter bunny and Easter eggs. Who doesn't like Easter candy? Who doesn't like chocolate-covered eggs? Go to Walgreens!"

Eddie Hollingsworth said, "I used to like to go over to family gatherings and eat, drink

and listen to old family stories. My favorite food to eat during Easter was homemade macaroni and cheese and fried perch fish."

Lenny Rideout remembered, "My favorite thing to do was to get together with my family. We'd get in our Sunday best and go to church with the family. I loved to eat ham, turkey, potato salad and everything that my mother and grandmother used to cook. It was a family tradition to get together, eat and go to church."

Quinton Walker said, "My favorite thing to do during Easter was the Easter egg hunts! My favorite thing to eat during Easter was chocolate. The chocolate-flavored Easter eggs."

Raymond Bodine said, "For Easter, I liked attending Holy Saturday services at church. I liked to eat See's Candy's chocolate Easter eggs."

# An Inside Review of Dawn of the Planet of the Apes

By SQ Reviews

Director Matt Reeves' *Dawn of the Planet of the Apes* continues the franchise tradition of exploring prejudice and power. Reeves' contribution to the *Apes* mythos is a sense of inevitable catastrophe that pushes *Dawn* across a spectrum of genres: from allegory to action movie to tragedy.

Humanity's struggle to find its place in a new world where apes talk and hunt with spears drives events, but the movie centers on Caesar (Andy Serkis), a chimpanzee who embodies all that is noble and good in ape culture. He contends with prejudices and grudges in an attempt to preserve a utopia and avoid war with humanity.

SQ Reviewers gather in the lot behind San Quentin's education department to discuss the tragic elements in *Dawn of the Planet of the Apes*.

As men in prison, each of us has an element of tragedy in our stories: anger that blinded

us, fears that drove us, and circumstances that swallowed us. We know firsthand how tragedy often stems from some weakness or moral failing in character that make an otherwise avoidable catastrophe inevitable. Emile DeWeaver poses the question: why was war inevitable and why was the utopia created by the apes doomed?

"I think intelligence ruined everything for the apes," says Juan Meza. "Before intelligence, there were no evil apes. It reminds me of Adam and Eve in the garden. When they got knowledge, that's when the bad came."

"I see your point," said DeWeaver. "But it breaks down for me because in the movie the apes built a utopia, and they needed intelligence to do that."

Rahsaan Thomas locates the tragic elements in a vengeful ape named Koba and a bigoted



humans like Carver. "I think the tragedy came from the inability to forgive," he says. "Koba couldn't understand why Caesar worked with humans, but Caesar knew the humans weren't going to give up on that dam."

In *Dawn of the Planet of the Apes*, the central conflict revolves around a hydraulic dam in ape territory that humans will stop at nothing to restore.

"Caesar used intelligence to avoid war, so intelligence isn't evil per se," Thomas continues. "It all fell apart because Koba couldn't forgive humans, and the humans like Carver blamed apes for the flu epidemic that killed off most of the humans."

Meza holds up one finger, seeking to clarify his point. "What I'm trying to say about intelligence is that it brings ambition with it. For me, Koba wanted to be the leader. Caesar was trying to stop war, but Koba wanted to be in charge so he could go to war."

"Caesar was just stalling war out," Thomas says. "Eventually it was going to happen anyway. Humans were going to grow and need more space. And the history of America is that when they need more space, they take it."

"OK," DeWeaver says. "Humanity definitely has a history of taking the space we think we

need. But what's the quality that describes this taking-mentality, since we're trying to pinpoint tragic elements?"

Thomas covers his mouth while he thinks. "In the movie, it was the *us/them* mentality — us humans against those apes."

DeWeaver closes the meeting with a last thought. "I think the tragic element was fear. When I look at why some apes hated humans or why humans mistrusted talking apes, I see anger and mistrust as defenses against something feared in the future. Koba said he didn't want humans to have power because they would enslave apes with it. People who are loath to forgive a slight often fear they'll be slighted again, but what I took from the movie is that letting fear rule us leads right back to the catastrophe we're trying to avoid."

We rated *Dawn of the Planet of the Apes* 3.5 dinner cookies out of 5.

Contributors: Emile DeWeaver, Rahsaan Thomas, Juan Meza, John Chiu



# The Effects of Family and Contact Visits

By **Rahsaan Thomas**  
Sports Editor

Rehabilitation is necessary for public safety, yet some states' prison systems are leaning more and more toward hampering the best rehabilitation tool: family and contact visiting, two studies say.

"Revising prison visitation policies to make them more 'visitor friendly' could yield public safety benefits by helping offenders establish a continuum of social support from prison to the community," suggests one study.

The Minnesota study by Grant Duwe and Valerie Clark is called *Blessed Be the Social Tie That Binds: The Effects of Prison Visitation on Offender Recidivism*, published in the *Criminal Justice Policy Review* 2013. Another report was by Kristina Hall, titled *Visiting a Prisoner Can Help Reduce Crimes after Release*.

California Gov. Jerry Brown has ordered the state's prisons to conduct more thorough searches of people who enter prisons.

Those who don't clear a metal detector may be subject to additional screening, which could include "a hand-held wand inspection in conjunction with a clothed body search of the visitor's body; a clothed-body search alone; or an unclothed (skin) body search." (Notice of Change of Regulations #12-07 to Section(s): 3173.2 and 3174 10/5/2012)

Family (conjugal) visits have been cut from Mississippi and New Mexico in 2014, leaving California, New York and Washington the only remaining states that allow them. *Prison Legal News* of May 2014 reported *Research Finds That Conjugal Visits Correlate with Fewer Sexual Assaults*.

## Yard Talk

However, in California, family visits are not permitted for:

- inmates with death sentences
- inmates sentenced to life without parole
- inmates sentenced to life without a parole date established by the Board of Parole Hearings
- inmates convicted of a violent offense involving a minor or a family member
- sex offenders
- inmates in reception centers
- inmates in administrative segregation units
- inmates guilty of narcotics infractions while incarcerated

tually taken out of prison while in prison, put in a two-bedroom home with TV, bath, kitchen. You are able to cater to your wife's needs, child's needs. Inside family visits, there are no lockdowns, you are home in a sense," said Antwan Williams, an inmate.

Williams has family visits with his wife and daughter. He is serving 15 years for kidnapping/robbery. (He moved somebody a few feet during a holdup.)

Conjugal visits help "improve the functioning of a marriage by maintaining an inmate's role as husband or wife, improve the

conducted from 2004 to 2006 in the five states that allowed conjugal visits then.

"If I could have family visits, I would be able to be more of a father to my son and husband to my wife," commented Lemar Harrison. "It would be an incentive to be an upstanding prisoner. It would make my ties with my wife and son that much stronger. It would help us do this time."

Harrison is a married lifer with a son. He has been convicted of murder/robbery and sentenced to 25 years to life. He receives regular visits weekly.

Several lifer inmates who aren't married or eligible for family visits see them as a benefit well beyond their potential

a productive part of their family. They say you, you, you, but they don't look at how they create bitter feelings toward the department and system because you have taken my family visits away."

Lewis is serving 109 years for shooting a man in the leg as a third strike. He has three kids but isn't eligible for family visit as a lifer.

"I would love to be able to sit down and see my 88-year-old grandma," added Eric Curtis, a three-striker.

Recent studies also show the huge difference family visits can have on child development.

"Significant health problems and behavioral issues were associated with the children of incarcerated parents, and that parental incarceration may be more harmful to children's health than divorce or death of a parent," says a study presented at the 109<sup>th</sup> annual meeting of the American Sociological Association, according to Hoaip Tran Bui's article in *USA Today* on Aug. 25, 2014.

"It makes a huge difference on child's development," agrees Williams. "My presence isn't just on the phone. You can't understand sleep apnea or nightmares through Global Tel Link. ...to have that taken away says the needs of the child do not matter ... it would stunt her growth."

Duwe and Clark wrote, "Visits from family and friends offer a means for establishing, maintaining, or enhancing social support networks. Strengthening social bonds for incarcerated offenders may be important, not only because it can help prevent them from assuming a criminal identity, but also because many released prisoners rely on family and friends for employment opportunities, financial assistance, and housing."



Photo courtesy of San Quentin Archives

San Quentin's family visiting home in 1972

"You lock a man in a cage to punish him, then further punish him by hampering visits," said John "YaYah" Johnson. "It makes him socially dysfunctional."

The difference between family (conjugal) visiting and regular visiting are huge.

"On a family visit, you are ac-

inmate's behavior while incarcerated, counter the effects of prisonization, and improve post-release success by enhancing the inmate's ability to maintain ties with his or her family," found researchers at Florida International University (FIU) according to an article published in the *Prison Legal News*. That study was

for conjugal contact.

"Family visits aren't all about sex," said Demond Lewis. "Family visits would give us a chance to bond and be a part of the family. It would give you a couple of days to talk to your little brother. He's going to see he can leave, and we can't. A lot of dudes just want to be

# The Infamous History of San Quentin State Prison

By **A. Kevin Valvardi**  
Journalism Guild Writer

Jan. 28, 1972—Former San Quentin Warden Clinton T. Duffy continues his push for prison reforms.

Jan. 28, 1972—Educational program enables prisoners in maximum-security control units to receive high school diplomas.

Jan. 28, 1972—Prisoner Clyde Hall and three other inmates wound up in isolation after Hall was discovered at the bottom of a large hole in the South Block basement during an apparent escape attempt.

Jan. 28, 1972—Canine "Rebel" Adams becomes the official mascot of the *San Quentin News*.

Jan. 28, 1972—Group psychotherapy offered to San Quentin prisoners as a means to improve mental health.

Jan. 28, 1972—Skyline Gym introduces a new boxing contract.

Feb. 4, 1972—The new West Block canteen project known as Canteen West proves successful.

## Back in the Days



Photo courtesy of San Quentin Archives

An outdated picture of prisoners stepping inside of the gym on the Lower Yard

Feb. 4, 1972—New SATE program provides educational opportunities and support for San Quentin's African-American men.

Feb. 4, 1972—The San Quentin Pirates hand U.C. Medical

Center their third straight variety basketball loss.

March 3, 1972—The California Supreme Court rules the death penalty unconstitutional, allowing 107 men and women to be released from Death Row

at two institutions.

March 3, 1972—San Quentin's population drops to 1,975, its lowest in over 50 years.

March 3, 1972—"Psycho," one of East Block's resident cats, survives a free fall from

fifth tier while stalking winged prey.

March 3, 1972—The director of California's Adult Authority temporarily suspends all community release passes.

March 3, 1972—Bob Roberts takes over duties as *San Quentin News*' new sports editor.

March 9, 1972—One-hundred and sixty-two outside guests attend the 31<sup>st</sup> anniversary celebration of San Quentin's Alcoholics Anonymous chapter.

March 9, 1972—Former state and federal prisoner Dr. Thomas H. Cox becomes assistant professor of law and justice studies at Glassboro State College and pioneers a new college program at Leesburg State Prison in New Jersey.

March 9, 1972—Arab terrorist organization The Black September Group demands release of Sirhan Sirhan in exchange for diplomatic hostages in Sudan.

March 9, 1972—Seventy county prisoners are shipped to San Quentin for temporary housing following a disturbance and fire at local county jail.



**1. Sacramento** — Scott Kernan, 54, of West Sacramento, has been appointed undersecretary for operations at the CDCR. Previously Kernan served as undersecretary for operations from 2008 to 2011, chief deputy secretary of adult operations from 2007 to 2008, and deputy director of adult institutions from 2006 to 2007. He also was warden at CSP-Sacramento, from 2004 to 2006, and warden at Mule Creek State Prison from 2003 to 2004, where he was a chief deputy warden from 2001 to 2003 and a correctional administrator from 2000 to 2001. Russell Nichols, 47, of Cameron Park, is the new director of the division of Enterprise Information Services at the CDCR, where he has served as acting director since 2015 and was project director of the strategic offender management system (SOMS) from 2012 to 2014.

**2. Rancho Cordova** — California Medical Facility staff took a chilly plunge into Lake Natoma in Rancho Cordova to raise funds for Special Olympics. Using the Sacramento State Aquatic Center at Lake Natoma, the team raised \$1,000 prior to the Feb. 8 event, and during the event they raised another \$350 for a total of \$1,350. They dubbed the event the Polar Plunge for Special Olympics.

**3. Oakland, CA** — A federal judge has allowed inmates in California Correctional Institution, Tehachapi, to be included into a court case filed by inmates at Pelican Bay State Prison, reports The Associated Press. All of the inmates are held in security housing units (SHU). The lawsuit claims living conditions in SHUs violate the constitutional ban against cruel and unusual punishment



because of the cells’ extreme isolation. The California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation claims SHUs are necessary to remove violent gang members from the prison system’s general population.

**4. St. Joseph, Mo.** — The state’s population of prisoners older than 50 has steadily increased over the last decade. The Associated Press reports. According to state prison officials, the population of over-50 inmates has grown from 10.1 percent in 2004 to 17.5 percent in 2013. Inmates have a high risk of health issues due to their lifestyle choices, regardless of ages, George Lombardi, director of the department, said in the report.

**5. Atlanta, Ga.** — For the second time in four years, the

state has put a moratorium on executions after questioning the “origin and effectiveness of increasingly hard-to-get lethal injection drugs.” The Atlanta Journal-Constitution reports. The Georgia Department of Corrections postponed the executions of Kelly Gissendaner and Brian Keith Terrell.

**6. Nashville, Tenn.** — A bill has been filed in the state legislature that would permit the Corrections Corporation of America to be sued only where the private prison operates, The Associated Press reports. The bill follows the state Supreme Court decision saying that a state law requiring inmates to sue in the county where the prison is located does not apply to private prisons.

**7. Connecticut** — The

state’s Supreme Court overturned a 100-year prison sentence that was imposed on Ackeem Rile, who was 17 when he killed a 16-year-old honor student in a 2006 drive-by shooting, the Connecticut Law Tribune reports. The state court cited a U.S. Supreme Court case (2012) ruling that mandatory sentences of life without the possibility of parole are unconstitutional for juvenile offenders.

**8. Mineola, N.Y.** — T.J. Parsell is producing videos focused on how prisoners could protect themselves from being raped while incarcerated, The Associated Press reports. In the report, Parsell said that he wanted to present the issue from the prisoners’ perspective, with prisoners talking about how to

prevent such attacks.

**9. Oklahoma**— A bill passed the state’s House of Representatives by a margin of 85-10 that would allow the execution of death row inmates by using nitrogen gas, The Associated Press reports. The bill follows a botched lethal injection in the spring that led the U.S. Supreme Court to consider the constitutionality of the state’s three-drug method.

**10. Albany, NY.** — New York University began sponsoring college-level English classes at the state’s Wallkill Correctional Facility in the Hudson Valley. Thirty-six inmates are taking the weekly classes that can lead to an associate’s degree. The Ford Foundation is funding the program with a \$500,000 grant. Gov. Andrew Cuomo last year proposed funding college programs at 10 prisons, saying it would cut recidivism and crime, The Associated Press reports. But, he dropped the idea because of opposition from legislators.

**11. Tallahassee, FL**— The two videos made by a previously high-ranking prison official depicting deplorable conditions in the state’s prison system were delivered to state legislators in spite of the governor’s order not to show them. The videos highlighted chronic under funding and understaffing at the state’s prisons, the Herald/Times Tallahassee reported.

**12. Hartford, CT.** — As the total number of inmates keeps falling, Gov. Daniel P. Malloy wants to shut down one of its prisons. The Republican-American reports the inmate population is at a 10-year low of 16,167 this year and is expected to decrease to 15,686 next by Jan. 1, the lowest since September 1997.

## We Can Use Your Help

The San Quentin News is not supported financially by the California prison system and depends on outside assistance. If you would like to help, there are two ways, both of which are tax-deductable. To contribute with a check, send it to Prison Media Project, c/o Media Alliance, 1904 Franklin Street, No. 818, Oakland, CA 94612. Do not use this address for general correspondence. Instead, write to the San Quentin News, 1 Main Street, San Quentin, CA 94964. To contribute with a credit card, go to our website, [www.sanquentinnews.com](http://www.sanquentinnews.com), click on Support, and then on that page go to the bottom paragraph and click on Here. That will take you to the page where you can use a credit card. A special thanks goes to Marin Sun Printing in San Rafael where our paper is printed.

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\*Have made more than one donation



# Tennis Season Restarts on Lower Yard

By **Rahsaan Thomas**  
Sports Editor

The Inside Tennis Team opened its promising 2015 season with outside sponsor Leslie Lava, Kent and Patti Anderson and some new competition. ITT won three out of the five matches.

“We have an outstanding season coming up with top players in the community coming in,” said Lava. “They will have USTA 4.0 ratings and better. The University of San Francisco will be back in May.”

Patti Anderson added, “It’s great to be back. I’m so thrilled to be here on opening day, and we brought some new guests.”

She sees tennis as good for rehabilitation. “Tennis is fun, and fun is happy,” she said. “Happy thoughts are very healing to your mind, body and soul.”

The new guests included

## SPORTS

Jonathan Kau, who attends the University of Maryland and is on the Maryland Tennis Club team. Also included was Tom Rosencrantz, who started playing tennis in college and does more triathlons now.

Ricardo and Lisa Capretta visited San Quentin’s Lower Yard with their 19-year-old daughter, Bianca, who is on the All-Marin Tennis Team and was on the number one doubles team for Branson High School.

The Caprettas felt comfortable among the ITT players.

“You guys are all nice,” said Lisa. “It’s a great experience. We love to give back to the community.”

Ricardo added, “We wanted to come out and spend time with you guys.”

Bianca and her dad were swept, 4-0, by ITT players Rick Hunt and Paul Oliver.

“She’s not playing consistently; she’s a little rusty,” said Lisa, who couldn’t play due to a rotator cuff shoulder injury.

Bianca, teamed up with Kau, also lost her second match, 4-1, versus Ke Lam Nghiep and Darryl “Green Eyes” Perkins.

“I’m going to practice a lot and come back to redeem myself,” said Bianca.

The matches started with N. Young and Raphael Calix facing Rosencrantz and Kau.

The Inside Tennis Team started strong. Young met a slow lob at the net and sent it over Kau’s head for the point.

“He’s got his A game going today,” said Kent about Young.

“When he plays under control and keeps that spin on the ball, he’s an A player.”

However, the guests recovered and won the match, 4-2.

“I had to get used to their lobs,” said Kau. “I had to pick it off the rise.”

“I’m looking forward to displaying my new skills,” said ITT’s Clay Long before his match. “I want to test my skills against people from the outside who have been playing for years.”

“He has Michael Jordan shorts on; he’s ready,” joked Lava about Long.

Chris Schuhmacher and Long teamed up against guests Patti and Kent and lost, 0-4.

“They won just barely,” said Schuhmacher. “It was a really close 0-4.”

“Clay hit some really tough shots, and he had a good volley too,” Patti noted.

“My partner had to warm up;

it takes two,” remarked Long, smiling.

Patti also worked on her game during the off-season.

“I worked on two things, and they worked. I learned to watch ball contact and connect with the strings,” said Patti. “I’m also dropping my back knee. It allows you to follow through and stay down on the stroke, which gives you top spin and helps you give a full stroke.”

The last match was Kent and Rosencrantz pitted against ITT members Oliver and Calix. ITT won 4-1.

“Blocking out Raphael was the key to my success,” joked Oliver about his partner.

The day ended in good cheer, with the guests and ITT circled in a huddle. Tim Thompson thanked the guests for “blessing us with your presence.”

Then everyone put a hand in the middle and yelled, “Inside Tennis Team!”

# Basketball Game Unites Muslims and Christians

By **Marcus Henderson**  
Journalism Guild Writer

Muslims and Christians came together for a full court basketball game to promote unity before a crowd of hundreds gathered on San Quentin’s Lower Yard.

Before the game started, Derrick Holloway, the Graced Out Ministries team captain, and Thomas “Hakeem” Holmes of team Deen-u-Haqq (Way of Truth) agreed to mix up the teams in the spirit of unity. The blending of the players gave birth to teams, Stay Ready and Teamwork.

The winner would be the first to score 100 points with each quarter ending at 25-point intervals. Stay Ready withstood a late game push and won 100-98.

“As with faith and all we do, we should keep it 100,” said Juan Meza of Graced-Out, who played for Teamwork.

Both teams gave 100 percent. Joshua Burton of Stay Ready ended the game with a free-throw that stopped Teamwork’s comeback short.

Teamwork overcame a 15-point deficit in the fourth quarter. Then Teamwork started to pressure Stay Ready’s inbound passes, which resulted in five turnovers.

Harry “ATL” Smith stole the ball and finished with a monster dunk. Teammates Marvin Cosby and Aubra-Lamont “Cocoo” McNeely both aided with buckets off the turnovers.

Cosby hit two short jumpers, and McNeely added two three-pointers to close the gap to 95-

92.

Stay Ready put in fresh guards Burton and Talib Batten. Both attacked Teamwork’s defense, making their way to the free-throw line to end their scoring drought.

In the first quarter, Teamwork started off with an 8-0 lead.

Stay Ready regrouped using team height and dominated the boards with center Lawrence Pela. Stay Ready took the first quarter, 25-16.

Stay Ready stayed on a roll with the dual guard play of Batten and Alias Jones. They pushed Stay Ready to a 32-16 lead.

Teamwork responded with a smaller lineup. This change forced Stay Ready to go smaller, but their smalls were still too big for Teamwork.

Stay Ready finished the second quarter with a 50-32 lead for the half.

Harun Taylor took over the coaching for Teamwork from Andre Yancy. He stayed with a smaller lineup, allowing his big men to rest. This strategy helped Teamwork cut the lead to 69-59.

Coach Holmes countered by putting back in his big men, Donte Smith, David Bennett and Pela. They turned the tide back to Stay Ready by controlling all the loose rebounds.

Stay Ready ended the third quarter 76-62. Teamwork finished with a push by their own big men: H. Smith, Greg Eskridge and F. Hicks. They brought Teamwork within one point to Stay Ready’s 99-98, but foul trouble put Stay Ready on the line to seal the deal.

After the game, the Christians, Muslims and non-denominational players formed a circle of brotherhood and ended in prayers.

“It’s good to come together as brothers; it’s a lot going on with (Islamic State) killing both Christians and Muslims. It’s good to show unity and tolerance,” said H. Smith.

“To see Christians, Muslims and non-denominational brothers showing unity can be healing,” added J. “Mailman” Ratchford.

Deacon Yancy said, “This is the example the OGs should show the youngsters, that no one is alone here.”

Coach Taylor finished with, “To see a group of believers come together means the whole yard won.”

# Vincent Mackey Crowned San Quentin’s Chess King

Vincent “Osiris” Mackey was crowned the chess king after winning a tournament that was open to all mainline units in San Quentin.

“We held the tournament to settle who was the best chess player between North and West blocks,” said Darrel Smith. “Also, we wanted to see who would be interested in being part of a chess club we are in the beginning phases of trying to start.”

Approximately 23 players participated, including two from H-unit. Each round was a best of a three-game series.

“The competition was stiff,” said Smith. “There were a lot of quality players although a great deal of good players missed the tournament. One had to forfeit because he went on a family visit.”

After defeating four opponents in straight sets to reach the finals, Mackey lost the first game of the series to North Block contender Zakee Hutchison.

“I overwhelmed him with my offense and tricked him into a position he couldn’t win from,” said Hutchison.

“After losing the first game, I set the pieces back up, slowed my game down and made sure I paid full attention,” said Mackey.

Mackey won the next two games and the tournament.

“Whatever it is I play or do, I put my all in, with the intent to win,” said Mackey. “I look

to overcome because there is always a way to overcome. Kings used to wage war based on chess.”

“He (Mackey) is a very good player,” said Hutchison. “He waits for you to make a mistake. I lost focus and gave away a knight. From that point he traded pieces and got me in a

position I couldn’t win in the deciding game.”

Mackey has also dominated in other chess tournaments. He is the reigning champion in the games held on holidays where, as the champ, he only plays whoever emerges to the finals. In this tournament, he had to start from the bottom.

“People felt I’m in a favorable position in the Holiday Tournaments,” said Mackey. “They wanted a completely different format, and they got it.”

The tournament was the first put together by Sam Johnson and Smith. They want to have a chess club that plays people from the outside. He said they need a sponsor, space and equipment.

“We have our eyes on a sponsor. If they say ‘yes,’ then we’ll try to get the Berkeley Chess Federal involved,” said Johnson.

“I would love to join a chess club, be its president and a player,” joked Hutchison. “Hopefully, we can get ranking with the U.S. Chess Federation.”

“I’m going to be the club’s president,” said Smith.

Hutchison said the lack of space affected his game. He faced Mackey at the tables on the Lower Yard, where people kept walking by.

“I was distracted by outside influences,” said Hutchison. “We need to have an area where we can focus in on the game.”

—By **Rahsaan Thomas**



Zakee Hutchison battling Vincent Mackey



# ASA Clinic Helps Umpires Get the Calls Right

By **Rahsaan Thomas**  
Sports Editor

A group of veteran umpires staged a training session for San Quentin prisoners to help improve their softball play calling.

"This is a clinic to make us better and prepare us for new fast-pitch softball league we are trying to start," said Damian Mitchell, a San Quentin umpire. "We're learning a lot of things we didn't know, like technique and technical things that will be enforced this year."

"They're in the perfect environment to learn the rules of the game and practice them," said Larry Long, a 20-year umpire veteran. "I want to help anytime anybody is interested in the sport; I want to give back like people have given to me."

Top officials from Amateur Softball Association, the governing body of umpires, held the clinic March 1 on the Lower Yard. The group of expert umpires consisted of Jim Cole, the Northern California Umpiring Chief of the ASA, his deputy chief, CO Beaton, Long and Chris Elze.

The veteran crew has a combined 75 years of experience.



Photo by Sam Hearn

Umpire Damian Mitchell running into position to see John Windham trying to stop the runner from taking home plate

They have umpired every level of softball from age 10 and under, high school, all divisions of college, International Championships and even Olympic teams on their tours.

Cole has 540 umpires working under him in 28 counties from Redwood City north to the

Oregon border. He has 40 years of experience.

"I'm just an umpire," he said. "I've wanted to come here for years."

Beaton is having the San Quentin residents take the umpire test and seeks to get them registered with the ASA.

well as high school and junior high games.

"You have to know the rules to be a good umpire," said Elze. "That takes practice and homework. There are different rules for each level of softball, but they are all based on the ASA rule book."

The opportunity to learn how to umpire attracted current San Quentin softball and baseball umpires, players and others.

"I like to watch, so I figured it would be fun to be an umpire," said inmate Ralph Cedejas, who is new to umpiring.

The inmates were taught umpiring plate and base mechanics. They received on-the-field instruction and watched a video. The video demonstrated the various positions umpires should run to view the play and make the call.

"They never make a call from behind the base," softball player John Windham noticed as he watched.

They were also given the 2015

ASA Official Rules of Softball Participant Manual, its supplement and the 2015 ASA umpire exam, compliments of Kevin Ryan, the ASA/USA director of umpires.

"The test is based on championship play – by the book," Cole said.

The ASA umpires described some of the hardest things about the task.

"Self-judgment is the hardest part of being an umpire," said Long. "I don't care what other people think, but I know when I screw up, it hurts."

"The hardest thing about umpiring is dealing with the coaches and fans," said Elze. "You can regulate the players, but fans are a different story."

"It's hard trying to get parents and spectators to understand the rules of the game," said Cole.

"Umpires have to have thick skin," said Beaton.

"Make calls with authority so no one will argue with it," said Cole.

"I ignore unruly fans at the adult level," said Long. "They paid for their ticket, so they get to do whatever they want to try and make my life miserable."

"Coaches, players and fans are all going to say something. You have to block them out," said Elze.

"Having fun is the important thing," said Long. "Everything else will come, but if you're not having fun, it's going to be painful."

"We are learning the official rules," said Willie Thompson, the home plate umpire for San Quentin hardball and softball games. "It's helping a lot."

"The people here really want to learn and they have shown tremendous progress in one day," said Long. "I didn't know what I would see."

"I'm really impressed with the noticeable improvement," said Beaton.



File Photo

Jim Cole, Chris Elze, Officer Beaton and Larry Long

## Carlos Ramirez Takes First in Six-Mile Race

By **Marcus Henderson**  
Journalism Guild Writer

Carlos Ramirez took first place in the 1000 Mile Club six-mile race with a time of 41:34 and a 6-minute and 56-second mile pace.

Ramirez credits his victory to his coaches' training schedule and help with preparation.

"I have a winner's mentality," said Ramirez. "Most of the time I came in second, so I pushed myself a little harder to see what would happen."

It was a warm sunny day with a light breeze. Chris Scull took the lead for the first lap, but Ramirez shot in front for good from the second lap on.

Scull came in second with a time of 42:36. Steve Reitz finished third with a time of 42:46.

"It's a good accomplishment," said Scull. "First, second and third are like gold, silver and bronze."

Scull uses running to keep everything in perspective. It helps to focus his mind, body and spirit.

"This is my first time taking third place," said Reitz. "In other races I tied for third."

Reitz credits his improvement to reading a book called *Born to Run*. It helped him change his style. He also credits the competition pushing him, along with the running logs and advice from the 1000 Mile coaches Frank Ruona, Kevin Rumon and Diana Fitzpatrick.

Larry Ford, who is 59 years old, came in fourth with a time of 42:56. Ford is a mentor to those in the running club.

"It's great (that) the runners work together," said Fitzpatrick. "Running across different boundaries, you see the guys support each other, and that gives them all the values of rehabilitation," said Fitzpatrick.

"I haven't run since boot



Photo by Kristine Stalakis

Jesus Sanchez, Abel Armengol, Eddie Herena, Ralph Ligons, Carlos Ramirez and Clifton Williams

camp," said first-time 1000 Mile race runner B. Wells Jr. "This gives legitimacy to runners you see running long distances, that it can be done."

The coaches stood by until the last man crossed the fin-

ish line. Simon Liu, who got a late start, came in with a time of 44:51 in the Feb. 27 event. However, it was Andrew Gazzeny, 48, who finished last with a time of 56:11.

"Just to finish and stay

healthy is good; a lot of us aren't spring chickens anymore," said Jerry Gearin, 48, who finished with a time of 47:52. "Running gives us a better understanding of our physical capabilities."



# San Quentin’s Iconic Painter Alfredo Santos Dies at 87

By Tommy Winfrey  
Arts Editor

Alfredo Santos, a San Quentin legend, died at the age of 87, at 6:15 a.m. at Jacob Healthcare in San Diego on Friday, March 15.

Famed for his creation of the murals in San Quentin’s South Dining Hall, Santos gained recognition for this work in 2003 when he returned to the prison to view the work he completed almost 50 years prior.

Santos won a prison art

contest to paint a mural on one of the 100-foot-long dining hall walls and began painting in 1953.

After completion of the first mural, prison officials decided to allow Santos to continue painting, and he has generally been credited with all six 12-foot-high murals on the walls of the dining hall.

With the help of two fellow prisoners, Santos worked nights painting the murals.

The murals depict scenes from California’s early history and through its golden years. Movie stars and soldiers crowd the walls. A space rocket is pictured in one of the murals. This early illustration was painted in the infancy of the space race between the U.S. and Russia and may be the earliest example of spaceship art in murals.

Santos’ murals

depict an advanced use of perspective that allows objects such as a giant plane and trolley to look as if they are headed straight at a viewer no matter which side of the dining hall he’s viewing from. Santos also interjected humor and risqué scenes into his murals. He painted a “peeping Tom” watching a woman undress from a rooftop in one of the murals.

There is a common myth at San Quentin that Santos used coffee grounds or shoe polish to paint the murals, but the truth is he applied raw sienna oil paint directly to the plaster.

“Santos was allowed

only one color; officials feared inmates might steal paint and dye their clothes in an effort to escape,” reported the *Los Angeles Times*.

In 1951, Santos was convicted of possession of heroin. He had limited training as an artist before being incarcerated.

After he was freed from prison in 1955, “Santos worked at Disneyland as a caricaturist and then opened a studio and gallery in San Diego, his hometown,” the *New York Times* wrote.

According to the same article, Santos again found himself on the wrong side of the law and fled to Mexico after pleading guilty to possession of marijuana. He returned to the U.S. in 1967, where he continued his work as an artist. Over the years, he ran several successful art galleries in Mexico and New York.

Although Santos had many accomplishments as an artist in his 87 years, “San Quentin is where I became an artist,” he once told the *New York Times*.



Another one of Alfredo Santos’ pastel drawings



Alfredo Santos working diligently on some of his early paintings



A pastel drawing of Eartha Kitt



Certificate of Commendation



San Quentin Dining Hall #2



San Quentin Dining Hall #3



San Quentin Dining Hall #3



San Quentin Dining Hall #1



San Quentin Dining Hall #4



San Quentin Dining Hall #2



# San Quentin News

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## ‘Angel’s List’ Would Review Parolee Services

Adequate reentry support is not only critical to men and women released from prison but also to their families and communities. Evaluating the quality of reentry facilities is the goal of former prisoner Brian Ferguson.

“People are self-motivated to find the things that are going to help them out and the things that are going to get them back on their feet,” Ferguson told re-

porter Christopher Moraff, for the website *Next City* on Jan 20. “People come home and they really want to change and want to make a life for themselves but the situation is such that they often have a difficult time finding the resources they need to do it.”

Ferguson’s solution is to create a web-based clearinghouse

See *Angel’s List* on Page 4



File photo

California alone spent over \$4 billion prosecuting death penalty cases between 1978 and 2011

## Death Penalty ‘Costly, Still Broken’

By Charles David Henry  
Journalism Guild Writer

The death penalty is broken in the U.S., according to a federal judge.

Judge William A. Fletcher of the Ninth Circuit Court of Ap-

peals told a student audience at Cornell Law School it has been almost 40 years since the court struck down mandatory executions for certain types of murder.

See *Death Pen.* on Page 5

## School Adopts Restorative Justice Over Punishment

By Antonio Alvarado  
Journalism Guild Writer

The Oakland Unified School District (OUSD) found that punishing students for fighting or breaking rules was ineffective. As a result, schools in Oakland

are implementing new methods for dealing with misbehavior, reported the *Rockridge Patch*.

Now students involved in fights or other disciplinary infractions go into a Restorative Justice program where they work to resolve their problems.

The program emphasizes that violence is never a solution to conflict.

According to the OUSD website, Restorative Justice is a set of principles and practices employed to build community and respond to student misconduct,

with the goals of repairing harm and restoring relationships between those impacted. Restorative Justice promotes dialogue in order to solve indifference and to avoid violence.

The pilot program in Oakland schools uses a three-tiered

model of prevention, intervention and supported reentry in response to conflict or inflicted harm.

Edna Brewer Middle School is one school in the district us-

can monitor. Hack Reactor volunteers and CDCR supervising instructor Jon Gripshover are on site at the prison to guide the students through the course. An offline computer lab is available four days a week where students can work on coding projects.

“Some of the students did not even know how to use a computer,” said Gripshover. “Hack Reactor had to create a curriculum that would teach the fundamentals of coding, and then move on to the higher levels needed to produce applications.”

Chris Schuhmacher, one of the graduates who was selected to speak at the ceremony, goes before the parole board this

See *Code.7370* on Page 11

See *Restorative* on Page 14



Photo by Sam Hearn

New coders posing with instructors Shawn Drost and Jon Gripshover

## Code.7370 Certifies 12 Men As Web App Developers

By Juan Haines  
Managing Editor

In April a dozen San Quentin prisoners graduated from an innovative technology training program where they had learned 21st Century computer coding skills. The class setting was a large space once used to store the 1930s-style printing equipment that until 2010 printed the *San Quentin News*.

The program, Code.7370, was developed by venture capitalists Chris Redlitz and Beverly Parenti in collaboration with the California Prison Industry Authority (CALPIA), the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation (CDCR) and Hack Reactor, a coding acad-

emy in San Francisco.

“The biggest challenge to teaching this course is the lack of internet access to the students,” said Shawn Drost of Hack Reactor. “It’s like teaching wood shop. You need material in class to use as examples. Most of the coding training is project-oriented where internet access is needed. We had to overcome that obstacle.”

Silicon Valley’s technology business community helped develop the course syllabus along with administering the instruction to the students.

The coding programs HTML, CSS and JavaScript are taught visually through a video conference call that the prison administers or the administration



File photo

Students and teachers gather for a Restorative Justice circle to restore relationships and avoid violence



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In collaboration with students from the

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The San Quentin News encourages inmates, free staff, custody staff, volunteers and others outside the institution to submit articles. All submissions become property of the San Quentin News. Please use the following criteria when submitting:

- Limit your articles to no more than 350 words.
- Know that articles will be edited for content and length.
- The newspaper is not a medium to file grievances. (For that, use the prison appeals process.) We encourage submitting articles that are newsworthy and encompass issues that will have an impact on the prison populace.
- Please do not use offensive language in your submissions.
- Poems and art work (cartoons and drawings) are welcomed.
- Letters to the editor should be short and to the point.

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Former Inmate Becomes Recreation Therapist for CDCR



Photos by Eric Owens, CDCR staff photographer

'Sitting in the county jail, I knew this wasn't where I wanted my life to go,' said David Earl White in an interview

By Don Chaddock  
Inside CDCR Editor

In the early 1970s, poverty-stricken Compton's murder rate was second only to Los Angeles. A young black man named David Earl White knew this all too well – it was his home.

"In Compton, people were dying and they didn't even get an obituary in the newspaper," he said recently from within the walls of San Quentin. "I was putting my life on the line on the streets of Compton.

White served in the Marines in Vietnam from 1973-1975. After his release, he went to college but found himself immersed in the drug culture. In the mid-1980s, he was twice convicted of felony narcotics charges. "Sitting in the county jail, I knew this wasn't where I wanted my life to go," he said. So he decided to do something about it.

White isn't an inmate at the state's oldest penitentiary – he's an employee. White is currently a Recreation Therapist with the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation, working with inmates at San Quentin. He's worked for the department for six years.

Last Christmas Eve, Gov. Jerry Brown issued White a full and unconditional pardon for those drug offenses committed decades before.

"Mr. White is an outstanding and inspirational model of redemption and what a person can do with dedication and the will to overcome humble beginnings," said San Quentin Associate Warden Steve Albritton.

"I was raised on welfare without a father," White said. His single mother did the best she could for him and his siblings, but there wasn't enough food, he said. He sold items door-to-door to help with money, but he was getting 30 cents on the dollar when he was introduced to drugs.

"I was intrigued by the fact if I sold weed, I didn't have to share the profits," he said. "When I joined the military, it was the first time I got three meals a day."

White returned home as a war-time veteran and played football at Compton Commu-

nity College, but kept his hand in the drug culture.

"I broke a record at Compton CC for interception returns," he recalled.

Film from the play made its way into the hands of the coach from San Francisco State University.

"When I almost lost my life in the violence in Compton, I thought the best thing was to get to San Francisco," he said.

"I learned to read and write in college," he said. "I had to take certain courses to graduate, and I failed them all. I was on [college] probation for three years, and it took me almost six years to graduate."

"Dealing drugs was still a part of my life, especially in the 1980s," he recalled.

Finally, his double life caught up with him. White said one of his first times getting busted was for possessing drug paraphernalia. Later, it was for dealing drugs.

"When I spent time in the county jail and the work furlough program, I knew that wasn't the place to be," he said.

White earned a living driving tractor-trailers and used the money to attend seminary school.

"To not sell drugs, I was willing to work driving trucks," he said. He ended up earning a master's degree in biblical studies. Later, he started coaching high school sports, which then led him to coaching some college teams.

He started working with others in drug and alcohol treatment programs, but as a convicted felon, he always had to strive to prove himself even more.

"The pivotal part was staying in school and struggling, and learning from it," he said.

He runs the Narcotics Anonymous meetings in the prison. He also connects inmates with opportunities for self-improvement.

"(Most) of the people are in here because of choices they made on mind-altering drugs," he said. "They think they are strong enough to deal with their addictions, and they're not."

For many inmates, landing at San Quentin is the first time they have had to face their addictions and the consequences of their actions, according to White. "Mind-altering, mood-changing drugs are devastating to personal growth," he said

Currently he helps them learn to read and write, as well as learn job skills, such as driving forklifts or trucks, or deal with issues such as anger management. He said many think of themselves as victims of their circumstances, but White's personal story of struggle and drugs allows him to connect with the inmates.

On a personal level, White is back in school as well. "To keep this job, I had to go back to take eight courses," he said. "I made the honor roll for the first time in my life. It's great being sober. ... I'm in school now to get my certification as a counselor for alcohol and drugs."

He said the pardon from the governor helps validate the path his life has taken and what he's doing to help others. He said while he's now turning 60 years old, he knows there is much more in store for him.

"It's a miracle for me to be here," he said. "But, I would like to further my career and do more."

Associate Warden, Steve Albritton says: Mr. White you are an outstanding and inspirational model of redemption and what a person can do with dedication and the will to overcome humble beginnings. You have come to the right place – San Quentin – with its rehabilitative fertile grounds. The men here, in various stages of changing their lives, can really benefit from your example.

CORRECTIONS:

In May 2015's "Last Mile" article Jason Jones' name was misspelled. His name was spelled as Jason James. The S. Q. News strives for professionalism and apologizes for the mistake.



# Report: Criminal Justice System Plagued With Racism

By Kevin D. Sawyer  
Journalism Guild Chairman

America’s criminal justice system is loaded with latent institutional racism, a new study concludes.

“Disparities in police stops, in prosecutorial charging, and in bail and sentencing decisions reveal that implicit racial bias has penetrated all corners of the criminal justice system,” The Sentencing Project study reported.

“White Americans who associate crime with Blacks and Latinos are more likely to support punitive policies – including capital punishment and mandatory minimum sentencing – than Whites with weaker racial associations of crime,” it was reported.

The September 2014 report points to many factors that contribute to what it calls “the severity and selectivity of punishment in the United States.”

Some factors, according to the study, are racial prejudice, conservatism, and crimes that stand out such as high profile, public interest crimes.

“These factors reduce empathetic concern about the hardships of punishment,” the study said.

The study was released in the wake of last year’s coast-to-coast protests and civil disobedience condemning the killing of unarmed Black men by police.

“Whites are more punitive than Blacks and Hispanics even though they (Whites) experience less crime. White Americans overestimate the proportion of crime committed by people of color, and associate people of color with criminality,” the report said.

“When individuals believe that those who commit crime are similar to them, they more readily reflect on the underlying circumstances of the crime and respond with empathy and mercy,” the report said.

Imputing crime to a particular race, infused with other factors, is a leading cause for the disparate punishment of people of color in the U.S., the study said.

African-Americans and Latinos combined are 30 percent of the general population, it was reported. However, these groups account for 58 percent of the U.S. prison population.

“By increasing the scale of criminal sanctions and disproportionately directing penalties toward people of color, racial perceptions of crime have been counterproductive for public safety,” the report said.

Some studies show that Whites are more likely to break the law when they see that enforcement of the law is racially biased, it was reported.

“Although Black Americans continue to be overrepresented among arrestees, the de-

gree of overrepresentation has been falling for a quarter century,” the report said. “Yet the profile of prisoners has been slow to adjust.”

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**“By increasing the scale of criminal sanctions toward people of color, racial perceptions of crime have been counterproductive for public safety”**

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This type of racial bias in the criminal justice system “may foster White Americans’ sense of legal immunity,” the report stated. This creates a system where White Americans are more likely to uphold the use of punitive criminal justice measures, as opposed to other social policy tools, to deal with crime.

The study said the killing of racial minorities by police officers and armed civilians is due to their distorted assessments of them as threats.

Unwarranted deaths can sometimes be attributed to unjustified perceptions of a threat, the study suggested.

It cited these examples of “all-too-common flashpoints of the racialization of crime”: the deaths of Amadou Diallo, an unarmed Guinean immigrant killed by New York City police officers in 1999; Trayvon Martin, an unarmed African-American teenager killed by a neighborhood watch coordinator in 2012; and Michael Brown, an unarmed African-American teenager killed by a police officer in Ferguson, Mo.

According to the report, racial minorities have different perceptions of the level of unfairness in the criminal justice system. This dampens community involvement with police and impedes criminal trials.

“In 2013, over two-thirds of African-Americans saw the criminal justice system as biased against Blacks, in contrast to one-quarter of Whites,” it was reported.

The Sentencing Project study said the mass media’s use of the “if it bleeds, it leads” approach to reporting crime contributes to negative racial perceptions about who commits crime. “Media representations of crime draw on, and contribute to, racial stereotypes.”

The report said the media reinforces public misconceptions about race and crime by portraying African-Americans and Latinos in a different

light than Whites. It points to newspapers and television programs over-representing racial minorities as crime suspects, whereas Whites are typically depicted as crime victims.

“This includes a tendency... to exaggerate rates of Black offending and White victimization and to depict Black suspects in a less favorable light than Whites. Given that the public widely relies on mass media as its source of knowledge about crime and crime policy, these disparities have important consequences,” the report said.

“The media, policymakers, and criminal justice practitioners can implement several proven interventions to sever associations of crime with race, and temper their impact,” The Sentencing Project reported.

“Policymakers can curb excessive incarceration and develop policies to reduce disparities in sentencing and crime rates.”

All stakeholders, including the mass media, researchers, policymakers, and criminal justice practitioners, can use proven methods to reduce negative racial perceptions of crime, the report concluded. Policymakers, it was recommended, should identify and modify race neutral policies that have been shown to have a disparate racial impact.

“Policymakers are increasingly aware that branding people...harms public safety and wastes public funds.”

## FBI: Police Kill More Blacks Than Other Races

*‘Nearly two times a week in the United States, a White police officer killed a black person during a seven-year period ending in 2012’*

A majority of the youngest people killed by police between 2005 and 2012 were Black males, according to statistics reported to the FBI.

“Nearly two times a week in the United States, a White police officer killed a Black person during a seven-year period ending in 2012,” *USA Today* reported.

The article said of the 17,000 U.S. law enforcement agencies, roughly 750 are contributors to the database that tracks police shootings that result in the death of civilians.

“The killings are self-reported by law enforcement, and not all police departments

participate, so the database undercounts the actual number of deaths,” *USA Today* said.

The investigative report found that there is no audit of the numbers sent to the FBI, and “the statistics on ‘justifiable’ homicides have conflicted with independent measures of fatalities at the hands of police.”

It was noted that the recent shooting death of 18-year-old Michael Brown, who was Black, “was not an isolated event in American policing.”

According to Geoff Alpert, a criminologist at the University of South Carolina who studies police use of deadly force, the limited FBI database under-

scores a “gaping hole” in the nation’s understanding of the frequency in which police take the lives of Americans.

“There is no national database for this type of information, and that is so crazy,” said Alpert. “We’ve been trying for years, but nobody wanted to fund it and the (police) departments didn’t want it. They were concerned with their image and liability.”

Alpert said he has researched hundreds of police department records and seldom found that someone will admit, “Oh, gosh, we used excessive force.” He said, “In 98.9 percent of the cases, they are stamped as justified

and sent along.”

The *USA Today* report on the FBI’s Supplemental Homicide Report (2005-2012) detailing police shooting victims by age reveals:

Black males make up 56 percent of those killed under 20, compared to 41 percent Whites.

Black males make up 42 percent of those killed aged 20 to 29, compared to 54 percent White.

Black males make up 32 percent of those killed aged 30 to 39, compared to 65 percent White.

Black males make up 25 percent of those killed aged 40 to 49, compared to 71 percent

White.

Black males make up 22 percent of those killed aged 50 to 59, compared to 76 percent Whites.

Black males make up 16 percent of those killed over age 60, compared to 81 percent White.

According to research, these “numbers are likely undercounted due to missing records.”

Christal Kennerson, whose nephew was shot and killed by an Albuquerque police officer in 2012, told *USA Today*, “I’ll be the first one to say that they put their life on the line every day, but they’re killing innocent people and kids.”

—By Kevin D. Sawyer

## Billionaire Conservative Political Activist Puts His Sights on Reforming Criminal Justice System

By Wesley R. Eisiminger  
Staff Writer

Billionaire Charles Koch says he’s planning to campaign for criminal justice reform, according to news reports.

“Over the next year, we are going to be pushing the issues key to this, which need a lot of work in this country,” Koch was quoted as saying in a Dec. 26 *CNN* report. “And that would be freedom of speech, cronyism and how that relates to opportunities for the disad-

vantaged.”

Koch has a history of financially supporting Republican causes.

His chief attorney, Mark Holden, told the *Wichita Eagle* that the old tough-on-crime effort by lawmakers over the recent decades has disproportionately affected minorities.

“It definitely appears to have a racial angle, intended or not,” Holden said.

The newspaper said Koch’s interest in criminal justice reform started from a lengthy

and expensive case defending his company, Koch Petroleum Group. The firm was charged with 97 felony violations of environmental laws in the 1990s. All but six of the charges were ultimately dropped, and the company paid a \$10 million settlement, the newspaper reported.

Holden said Koch wants to address voting rights for former offenders and make it easier for nonviolent offenders to find employment once they complete their sentences.

“Koch’s comments might come as good news to Sen. Rand Paul (R-Okla.), who’s made sentencing reform a major part of his agenda while he tries to appeal to nontraditional GOP voters ahead of a likely presidential bid,” said the paper.

Gov. Chris Christie of New Jersey supports bail reform. Former governors Rick Perry of Texas, Jeb Bush of Florida and Mike Huckabee of Arkansas have been supportive of sentencing reform for nonviolent drug offenders.



File photo  
CEO of Koch Industries, Charles Koch



# In the U.S. Firearms Involved Many More Suicides Than Homicides

*‘Suicides accounted on average for 60.5 percent of firearm deaths over the decade’*

By Chung Kao  
Journalism Guild Writer

Most firearm deaths are suicides, not homicides, according to the 2015 Annual Review of Public Health.

Suicides accounted on average for 60.5 percent of firearm deaths over the decade ending in 2012, a university report says.

In the United States, “The mortality rate from firearm violence has remained essentially unchanged since just before the turn of the 21st century,” wrote Professor Garen J. Wintemute of the University of California at Davis’ Violence Prevention Research Program.

Since 2006, firearm homicides have decreased, but firearm suicides have increased by a like amount, he said.

“Alcohol and controlled substance abuse are important predictors of future risk for violence, including firearm violence, whether directed at others or at oneself and whether or not mental illness is also present,” Wintemute wrote.

The review, titled “The

Epidemiology of Firearm Violence in the 21st Century United States,” presents the following data:

In 2012, there were 32,288 deaths from firearm violence: 11,622 homicides and 20,666 suicides.

*“Firearm violence is among the leading causes of death for teenagers and young adults”*

The societal costs of firearm suicides and homicides were about \$164.6 billion in 2010, roughly 1.1 percent of the U.S. gross domestic product that year.

During the decade ending in 2012, there were on average 82.3 deaths from firearm violence every day: 32.5 homicides and 49.8 suicides.

Mass public killings accounted for a very small percentage of deaths from firearm violence. The four

high-fatality events in this century resulted in 84 homicides.

Firearm ownership is probably the most widespread factor associated with risk of death from firearm violence.

Compared with other industrialized nations, the United States has uniquely high mortality rates from firearm homicide and suicide.

Contrary to popular belief, mental illness by itself is not a leading contributor to interpersonal firearm violence, though depression is a major factor for firearm suicide.

Firearm violence is among the leading causes of death for teenagers and young adults.

Firearm homicides are concentrated among Black males through much of the life span. Firearm suicides, on the other hand, are concentrated among White males, increasing sharply after age 70.

The mortality rates from firearm violence varied greatly among the states, with essentially no correlation between the rates of homicide and suicide.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention now treats firearm-related deaths and injuries as a public health

problem; it collects such data and publishes them via its Web-based Injury Statistics Query and Reporting System.

## Curbing Youth Gun Violence

*‘The solution to youth gun violence requires curbing access to firearms and providing mental illness treatment’*



File photo

*‘Each year, nearly 3,000 youth are killed and approximately 16,000 are injured by guns’*

By Tommy Bryant  
Journalism Guild Writer

The solution to youth gun violence requires curbing access to firearms and providing mental illness treatment when needed, a recent scientific study reports.

*“Viewing gun violence prevention primarily through the lens of mental health is inadequate”*

“Gun violence in American schools and communities has and continues to be a serious public health concern. Each year, nearly 3,000 youth are killed and approximately 16,000 are injured by guns,” according to the report published in November on the Public Library of Science web site.

The solution requires closing background check loopholes, reducing civilian access to high-capacity weapons and normalizing safe gun storage practices, the report adds.

“Additionally, current research confirms that stricter gun control efforts are effective in curbing gun violence and substantially reducing the

number of firearm-related injuries and deaths,” the report states.

It is politically difficult and complex to regulate gun control legislation. On the other hand, the mental health “angle” seems to be the easier pathway for clinicians, researchers and educators who want to prevent gun violence, according to the report.

The study was authored by Kelly V. Ruggles of New York University and Sonali Rejan of Columbia University.

“Viewing gun violence prevention primarily through the lens of mental health is inadequate in providing us with a complete understanding of the factors that are associated with gun violence among youth,” the study says.

The author’s list of six behavioral clusters that contribute to youth gun violence are:

- Physical activity and nutrition
- Disordered eating, suicide and sexual violence
- Weapon carrying and physical safety
- Alcohol, marijuana and cigarette use
- Drug use on school property
- Overall drug use

This study found 40 patterns between gun violence and youth. Behavioral factors consistently linked include heroin use, having been injured in a fight (bullying) and or having been a sexual victim.

## ‘Angel’s List’ Would Rate Services for Parolees

Continue from Page 1

of reentry resources, called *Angel’s List*, which he says has the potential to “completely revolutionize the service referral industry” for returning citizens.

The concept behind Angel’s List is to have user reviews of the reentry facilities, similar to *Yelp* or to Angie’s List, a guide for home repair services. [See sidebar: *Yelp Helps Spread the Word*]

Ferguson can draw from several existing lists of reentry resources: one in Philadelphia, two in California, and one in Texas, *Next City* reports. Unlike Ferguson’s Angel’s List, these resource lists are not rated for quality or usefulness.

Ferguson’s idea caught the attention of Halcyon Incubator, a Washington, D.C., incubator program for social entrepreneurs that chose Ferguson as one of 10 fellows in October. Since then, he has received professional, technical support and access to potential investors, according to *Next City*.

Before going national, Angel’s List is scheduled to launch in the D.C. area and New York City in 2016.

“Hopefully this will create a new competitive space for these organizations,” Ferguson said to *Next City*. “It’s a win-win because it allows people to have an input into their own success but it also facilitates the whole industry getting better.”

—By Juan Haines

### Yelp Helps Spread the Word



Yelp is a multi-national corporation headquartered in San Francisco, according to the free encyclopedia, *Wikipedia*. It develops, hosts, and markets [yelp.com](http://yelp.com) and the Yelp mobile app, both of which publish reviews from the public about specific businesses.

The company also trains small businesses to respond to reviews responsibly, hosts social events for reviewers, and provides basic data about businesses, such as hours of operation.

According to *Inc. Magazine*, most reviewers, sometimes called “Yelpers,” are “well-intentioned” and write reviews in order to express themselves, improve their writing or be creative. However, in some cases, they write reviews in order to lash out at corporate interests or businesses they dislike.

Reviewers can be motivated by badges and honors—such as being the first to review a new location, or by praise and attention from other users. If reviews are written in an entertaining or creative manner, users can give a review a “thumbs-up” if it is “useful, funny, or cool.”

Each day a “Review of the Day” is determined based on a vote by users.

According to *The Discourse of Online Consumer Reviews*, many Yelp reviewers are internet-savvy adults aged 18–25 or “suburban baby boomers.” Reviewers are encouraged to use their real names and photos.



# Oklahoma Lethal Injection Faces Supreme Court Review

By Marcus Henderson  
Journalism Guild Writer

Three botched executions in 2014 prompted the U.S. Supreme Court to hear a challenge to Oklahoma's lethal injection procedures.

"I am deeply troubled by this evidence suggesting that Midazolam cannot constitutionally be used as the first drug in a three-drug lethal injection protocol..." said Supreme Court Justice Sonya Sotomayor.

This case comes after the execution of Charles Warner, one of four Oklahoma inmates who filed the petition. The three remaining defendants will likely be granted stays, according to the Death Penalty Information Center.

Four justices voted to stay Warner's execution, but it takes a majority five votes to grant a stay.

At least four inmates have been put to death even when four of the nine justices would have granted a stay of execution. Hofstra University law professor Eric M. Freedman urged the justices to change this practice and "stop permitting execution when four justices object."

Freeman added, "The justices



File photo

Oklahoma's lethal injection chair

deserve time to think. A statement by four of them that want time should suffice to postpone a potentially fatal deadline."

The petitioners maintain there

is a well-established scientific consensus that the first drug has no pain-relieving properties and cannot reliably produce deep, coma-like unconsciousness.

The suit claims the procedure produces a substantial, constitutionally unacceptable risk of pain and suffering from the administration of the second and

third drugs while a prisoner is conscious.

The case is *Glossip v. Gross*, No. 147955, cert. granted Jan. 23 2015.

## Grant Aims to Curb Youth Substance Abuse in Detention Centers

By Lee Jaspar  
Journalism Guild Writer

Kids with substance abuse problems and early contact with law enforcement are being treated with a new public health approach.

Many kids with drug problems get no treatment in juvenile detention facilities, according to Reclaiming Futures (<http://reclaimingfutures.org>), a nonprofit that helps kids in trouble with drugs and crime.

With a \$2 million grant

from the Conrad N. Hilton Foundation, Reclaiming Futures is setting up a three-year pilot program called SBIRT (Screening, Brief Intervention and Referral to Treatment).

SBIRT will be folded into several diversion programs.

Evan Elkin, special projects director for Reclaiming Futures, will be the clinical director of the program, according to Stell Simonton with the Juvenile Justice Information Exchange.

The SBIRT process includes an assessment using a brief questionnaire and a trained interviewer.

When kids indicate risky behavior, the interviewer provides information and motivation for change.

When SBIRT is adapted for use in juvenile justice, police and probation officers may be the ones administering it, says Simonton.

Law enforcement will be trained to use a "lighter touch" than they usually do in talking to kids about drugs. They will learn to ask with curiosity, to express interest, and to elicit the context of a kid's use, said Elkin.

They will be trained to suggest options, rather than dictating the kid's next move, Elkin said.

Though the SBIRT has not been widely used in the United States, the Hilton Foundation sees it as a promising model.

## Death Penalty 'Costly and Ineffective'

Continue from Page 1

Despite the fact that the death penalty is no longer mandatory, the U.S. is the "only industrialized western country" using capital punishment for these types of murders, Fletcher said.

"Even in the face of poll numbers...that favored the death penalty," the U.S., Japan, and China are the only industrialized nations using this method of punishment, Fletcher said. Many European nations abolished capital punishment years ago.

Cost is the issue that most affects Fletcher's attitude about the death penalty. According to Justin Pascoe, an intern writer for the Cornell Chronicle, "The death penalty is extremely expensive. It costs more to execute a person than to keep him in prison for life."

California spent more than \$4 billion prosecuting death penalty cases between 1978 and 2011, a study revealed.

California would not spend that kind of money on those cases fit had "merely imposed life in prison without the possibility of parole," Fletcher said. Fletcher took issue with the extremely slow application of the

death penalty.

"Many more death row prisoners die from natural causes or from suicide than from execution," Fletcher said. In Fletcher's opinion, a death sentence amounts to life in prison without parole.

**"Many more death row prisoners die from natural causes or from suicide than from execution"**

The judge also asserts, "we do not know whether the death penalty actually deters homicide."

Fletcher claims certain methods of execution are unconstitutional. He said the electric chair, "once thought more humane than hanging, has now been held unconstitutional," and "there is currently a moratorium in California because of concerns about lethal injection."

Fletcher recalls a number of capital punishment cases involving police mistreatment

and planting of evidence, malpractice on the part of attorneys, and corporate influence over judges' behavior, which cause clemency pleas to become useless exercises.

Up and down the judicial system, "From the police to the prosecutors to the courts to the governors, at every rung we have seen the problems that I have described. Such problems don't occur in every case, but they occur in enough cases that we have a serious problem," Fletcher told Pascoe.

One example occurred Dec. 11 when an Arizona appeals court dismissed murder charges against Debra Jean Milke. She had spent 22 years on Death Row in connection with the death of her son.

In South Carolina, a judge threw out the conviction of a 14-year-old Black boy who died in the electric chair in 1944 for the murder of two White girls.

Since California reinstated the death penalty in 1977, more than 1,000 people have been sentenced to die. Just 13 were actually executed, reports the *Sacramento Bee* in a Dec. 20 article by Gerald Uelmen, a law professor at Santa Clara University.

***"The first arrest is a great prevention point. It's a great opportunity to catch a kid when a behavior issue has first emerged"***

"The first arrest is a great prevention point. It's a great opportunity to catch a kid when a behavior issue has first emerged," said Elkin.

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# Parole Hearings: Where The Truth Won't Set You Free

By Arnulfo T. Garcia  
Editor-in-Chief

## EDITORIAL

After reading the transcripts of prisoner Duane Edward Holt, it became apparent to me that he is living in an abyss, lost in an enormous black hole with no light. Holt is serving a life sentence for first-degree murder. He never knows when he will be released.

At his fourth parole board appearance on Jan. 8, he was denied parole for lack of insight and minimizing his role in the March 24, 1987, murder of Richard John Urban Jr.

Five years later after Holt's conviction, Robert Curl was found guilty of the same murder. Curl now sits on Death Row at San Quentin, appealing his conviction and sentence.

It is interesting that separate juries found that Holt and Curl pulled the trigger of the *same* gun that killed Urban.

More interesting is one of the questions posed to Holt by Commissioner Garner: "OK, did you get tried jointly with the shooter?" Holt responded: "No, he got tried five years later."

I find this exchange interesting because the way this question is framed, Holt was not the shooter.

To be clear, when I talked to Holt, he accepts full responsibility for Urban's murder. However, since he has not admitted that he was the shooter, the board does not believe his version of the events leading to Urban's murder. They think he is minimizing his role in the murder and therefore lacks insight.

"What do I say? They tell me to tell the truth," Holt said.

"All I want to do is be transparent with the parole board, and I often feel like I will spend the rest of my life in prison because I will not admit that I pulled the trigger. But if I did that, then I will be lying."

This is a perfect example of a needed change in parole hearing outcomes. If a prisoner insists that the crime did not happen the way the trial transcripts read, he should not be required to lie and say it did happen that way.

Today, looking back as he tries to explain how irresponsible he used to be, Holt says, "It now makes me feel different in a way that I know I couldn't go back. Some might think because I'm in prison that I lost my mind, but the fact is that in prison one can choose to live the same lifestyle, but I chose not to."

He makes no excuses for who he was before coming to prison.

Born Nov. 11, 1959, in Fresno, Holt is one of four children of hard-working parents. Holt said he began using drugs at age 14 to rebel against a very strict and sometimes violent father, who worked 40 years as a carpenter before dying of brain cancer in August 1982.

"As a young man I lived as an outlaw and developed a lifestyle which included being a drug dealer," Holt said. "I looked up to others in the underworld. These were my role models, and I was always ready to please them."

Holt said the negative environment he grew up in was

grounded in a motorcycle gang mentality. "The culture of drugs made me a slave to methamphetamine. It was all around me as a child; I knew no better."

In 1979, he married Jeannie Cooper and had two daughters. However, their marriage ended in 1983. Today, he has five grandchildren.

*"It became too difficult to pull away from the drugs, the money, and all the criminal drama that goes with it"*

In spite of the negative environment, Holt said in 1980, he earned a GED and completed a four-year apprenticeship carpenter program, eventually becoming a journeyman carpenter with a local union.

However, he still was in the drug life.

"Since I had no criminal history as a juvenile, and in an effort to save myself from drugs and self-destruction, I joined the Marine Corps at the age of 17 to serve my country," Holt said. "I achieved rank of lance corporal, but I couldn't leave

## Appreciating Black History Month

Dear Editor,

I wanted to thank you brothers and sisters for your newspaper. I really enjoyed February's edition celebrating Black History month. I think about the untold facts of African-Americans' scientific contributions to humanity. Communicating a culture's achievements is a good thing, but only recounting a small portion of the story perpetuates psychological hinderance when it comes to self-identity. There's a lot of negativity, we African-Americans had to overcome in the past, and the last thing we need is to reflect on a past that's bad luck. Not to mention it's long past time for us to stop begging for recognition.

-Demmings A.  
Wasco State Prison

Response: We encourage you to submit your own articles about any 'story [that] perpetuates psychological hinderance when it comes to self-identity.' We want to bring further awareness to matters that affect you.

-S.Q. News Staff

that methamphetamine alone."

Holt said that he didn't understand the dynamics of the drug life until he was in too deep and over his head.

"It became too difficult to pull away from the drugs, the money, and all the criminal drama that goes with it," he said. "It turned out to be nothing but a big whirlwind of destruction for a young man with no real sense of direction."

He told me that all he wants to do now is help others not to become the product of a destructive culture.

"It has taken me years to unravel my life and to get a grip on my wrongs," Holt said. "I've done more since arriving at San Quentin than what I've done in 28 years of being incarcerated," referring to completing a vocational trade, and certification programs for building maintenance.

He said he regularly attends Narcotics Anonymous, SQUIRES, Kid CAT, the Richmond Project and Restorative

Justice meetings. He has also completed non-violent communications, Hope for Strikers, Anger Management, a domestic violence course, Teaching Responsibility Utilizing Sociological Teaching and House of Healing.

Holt's sobriety dates back to 1996. He says, "I struggled when I first came to prison because all I wanted to do was fit in. That's the way it has been throughout my life."

Today, Holt said that all of the programs have made him realize that he's carried a lot of resentment, shame, guilt and a poor opinion of himself. He said those feelings stem from a poor relationship with his father.

"I have a loving but distant relationship with my children," he said. "I have five beautiful grandchildren and used to get visits with them when my mother was alive to bring them to me." His mother labored for years in a planing mill. She died in February 2014.

## USF Students Perform Restorative Messages

*'Idle time does not contribute to successful reentry. Meaningful, engaging programming is key to assisting those in custody transition to the life on the outside'*

By Rahsaan Thomas  
Sport Editor

A group of San Francisco college students and jail inmates presented a performance art show exploring mass incarceration and restorative justice issues.

Dance, music, spoken words, and an original score performed and composed by Jeffery Atkins, a local musician and composer, were the medium used to deliver their restorative message.

The University of San Francisco students, sheriff's employees, contractors, and inmates transformed pod 7B into a theater for the November 2014 show, called *Through These Walls*, according to the Sheriff's Newsletter.

A group of 25 USF students entered the county jail to watch

the show.

"Idle time does not contribute to successful reentry. Meaningful, engaging programming is key to assisting those in custody transition to the life on the outside," said Sheriff Ross Mirkarimi in his December 2014 newsletter.

Inmates did arranged movements to live flugelhorn music in the exercise area decorated with props.

"It takes one person to truly change, and then they can influence change in another person, and we've seen that here today," said sheriff Capt. Ideta. "Not just the inmates, but the students all expressed how this has changed them. I am always amazed by the talent we have here. These guys are breaking down stereotypes one at a time, and from here, who knows?"

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### Expressing Frustrations About Unhealthy Conditions

Dear Editor,

Just read your newspaper dated July 2013. As an inmate at CCWF, any information that I am able to read and share with other inmates is truly appreciated.

I would love to receive your paper (*San Quentin News*) and will ask my family if they will send donations toward your cause.

A little about what is happening here at CCWF. Due to VSPW (Valley State Prison for Women) closing to women, all of the female inmates were transferred across the street to CCWF (Central California Women Facility). To say this prison is better, would be a lie. It's crowded (eight women per cell). The buildings are older, the air blowers do not work, the water wells are drying up, so the yards are dead grass and dirt!

There is an entire unit of medical elderly, with chairs and walkers everywhere. It's a sad, sorry place. Doing time here is the worst! Most try to transfer to CIW, the thought of two people per cell wins out!

This is not my first trip to prison, but will be my last! This prison and the staff here are not easy to be around. Some are caring staff, others are over-worked and tired of their jobs. Thank you for your time, and again, I would appreciate being placed on your mailing list.

Take care  
-Wendy Labuda  
Central California Women Facility

*Editor's Note: According to the CDCR press office, all state prisons have cut back on water usage in light of the drought. In addition, both CCWF and CIW have dorm housing - Four bunk beds in a dorm - eight women per room.*

### Website Offers Help to Families of Those Incarcerated

A new and free search engine, [www.PrisonPath.com](http://www.PrisonPath.com), provides information for the public. The site helps users in clarifying confusion and fear of the unknown when a loved one is charged and arrested, or sentenced to imprisonment in the United States. PrisonPath provides information including the ability to find a person incarcerated, visitation rules, contact numbers, and more about every American prison or jail. It also allows families and friends of inmates to communicate with each other on a specific page.



# Juvenile Lifers Honor Community Leaders

## Sandra Gutierrez and Nancy O'Malley

By John Lam  
Kid CAT Writer

The James Irvine Foundation recently awarded \$200,000 to five individuals, representing four organizations, for being innovative leaders who provided break-through solutions to improve California's future.

Kid CAT will highlight two of the individuals who we believe represent the core mission of our values: inspiring humanity through education, mentorships and restorative practices.

One of the recipients is Sandra Gutierrez, founder and national director of Abriendo Puertas/Opening Doors. The other is Alameda County District Attorney Nancy O'Malley.

The first organization seeks to bridge a gap in the education of low-income Latino children. It creates a curriculum using the help of parents to teach goal-setting, positive discipline, and health and wellness.

The hope is to improve parents' ability to support their children's early development by being their first teacher and advocate, the leadership awards brochure explained.

### Kid CAT Speaks!



Sandra Gutierrez: founder of Abriendo Puertas/Opening Doors

The lessons begin with parents sharing stories and role-playing with the children and teachers.

The curriculum is highly accessible, and reportedly is one of the most-requested programs offered through Head Start.

The program has educated 37,000 parents in 95 cities, including Los Angeles.



Alameda County District Attorney Nancy O'Malley

A University of California at Berkeley study revealed that before the Abriendo Puertas program was offered, only 12 percent of the parents responded that they were able to prepare their children for school. After the program was offered, the number jumped to 77 percent.

"Parents make a huge difference in their child's early development through small things they can do every day like talking, singing and reading with them," Gutierrez said. "Students and society gain when parents can be strong partners in education," she added.

Gutierrez's work demonstrates the value of investing in early education by bridging the network of support required to foster a child's growth and development through education.

O'Malley was honored for the creation of Human Exploitation and Trafficking (H.E.A.T.), a watch program inspired by O'Malley's witnessing an increase of cases of exploited children in the city of Oakland. Her program reaches out to professionals in the criminal justice system, social services, health care, and education to help them recognize the signs of child trafficking, report possible abuse and provide effective interventions.

O'Malley's program changed the approach law enforcement makes on this issue, treating exploited minors as victims instead of criminal offenders, the brochure said. H.E.A.T. includes a team of prosecutors, investigators and victim advocates that together address the needs of those who have been exploited while working to ensure their exploiters are prosecuted to the full extent of the law.

As of 2012, the Alameda County District Attorney's Office has prosecuted 46 percent of all human trafficking cases in California.

"Her approach links exploited children to a network of social and safety services that help them escape from their traffickers, recover from physical and emotional wounds, and for some, start their lives over," according to the awards brochure.

O'Malley said people tend to look at and judge the person most visible to them — the child on the street engaging in commercial sex — and not see the adult trafficker or purchaser behind the scenes.

"By coming together, working collaboratively and providing a comprehensive response, we will save lives, and we will be more effective at preventing child sex trafficking from happening," O'Malley concluded.

## Foster Care Children Fall Victim to Identity Theft

Thousands of children streaming out of the state foster care system discover they are victims of identity theft, the *California Office of Privacy Protection* reports.

"Children make attractive targets for identity thieves, because the crime is usually not discovered for many years, giving thieves years of unobserved use of the stolen identities," the report stated.

Foster children are especially vulnerable to identity theft because their information is passed through many hands as they move through the system.

As many as 30 percent of foster children may be the

victims of identity theft, according to Robert Fellmeth, University of San Diego law professor and director of Children's Advocacy Institute.

An *NBC News* report revealed, "Poor parents or other family members often use their young relatives' Social Security numbers" out of economic necessity to keep the lights on, put food on the table or feed an addiction.

The impact to these youths is far reaching. "They may find out that they cannot rent an apartment, get a student loan or even get a job as the result of a credit history ruined by identity theft committed while they were in foster care," the privacy office's 2011 report said.

Many times, the children may not know that they have been victims of identity theft until debtors put liens on their accounts, and their wages are garnished for debts they did not incur.

Fox News reported one case where a former foster care girl discovered someone racked up \$3,000 in bills in her name when she was 8 years old.

Other examples uncovered by the Los Angeles County Department of Consumer Affairs and Department of Children and Family:

- More than 100 victims of identity theft, with the average amount of debt of \$1,800.
  - One child had been saddled with a \$217,000 home loan.
- In 2006, California enacted a law intended to clear foster children's credit records before they leave the system. But because of procedural flaws and limited funding, implementation of the law was delayed, the privacy office reported.

Congress passed a law in 2011 requiring child welfare agencies to provide all 16-18 year old foster youth with free credit checks and help to interpret and resolve inconsistencies before they age-out of the

system, reported NBC News. Advocates contend that state and federal laws have not been fully implemented, and even when checks are run, thousands of young people still age-out of the system with unresolved credit issues.

There are "no teeth behind the requirement, case workers are notoriously overburdened, and these requirements are not always followed," stated Sam Cobbs, director of First Place for Youth, a California organization for foster kids. The credit-reporting agencies have not always been easy to work with, Cobb concludes.

—By John Lam

## Niños en el Systema de Foster Care Caen Victima al Robo de Identidad

Por John Lam  
Escritor de Kid CAT

La Oficina de Protección de Privacidad de California reportó que miles de niños al salir del sistema de foster care (casa de cuidado temporal) descubren que han sido víctimas del robo de identidad.

El reporte dice que "los niños son un blanco perfecto para los ladrones de identidad, porque por lo general pasan muchos años para que el crimen sea descubierto, permitiendo que los ladrones hagan uso de las identidades robadas por años."

Los niños que se encuentran en foster care antes de cumplir sus 18 años y ser considerados adultos son especialmente vulnerables al robo de identidad porque su información pasa por muchas manos cuando se mueven dentro del sistema.

"Hasta un 30 por ciento de niños en foster care antes de cumplir los 18 años y ser con-

siderados adultos pueden llegar a ser víctimas de el robo de identidad," de acuerdo a Robert Fellmeth profesor en leyes de la Universidad de San Diego y director del Instituto Defensor de Niños.

Un reportaje de Noticias NBC reveló que, "Padres pobres económicamente y otros miembros de la familia a menudo usan el numero de seguro social de sus familiares jóvenes por necesidad económica, para la electricidad económica, para la electricidad, poner comida sobre la mesa o costear una adicción."

La Oficina de Privacidad en el 2011 reportó que, para los jóvenes que son víctimas del robo de identidad el impacto es enorme. "Ellos podrían descubrir que no pueden rentar un apartamento, obtener un préstamo o conseguir empleo como resultado de un historial de crédito arruinado por el robo de identidad, cometido durante su estancia en foster care."

Frecuentemente, los niños pueden no saber que han sido víctimas del robo de identidad hasta después que deudores ejecutan el derecho de retención sobre sus cuentas y sus salarios son embargados por deudas que ellos no han incurrido.

Fox News reportó un caso en donde una mujer joven que había estado en un foster care antes de cumplir los 18 años de edad, descubrió que había sido estafada en su nombre por \$3,000 cuando ella tenía solo 8 años de edad.

Otros ejemplos revelados por el Departamento de Asuntos del Consumidor del Condado de Los Ángeles y el Departamento de Niños y Familia incluyen:

- Mas de 100 víctimas del robo de identidad con un promedio de \$1,800 en deudas
  - Un préstamo para la compra de una casa de \$217,000, fue impuesta a nombre de un niño
- En 2006, California promulgó una ley destinada a limpiar el

historial de crédito de los niños antes de salir del foster care, pero fallas de procedimiento y fondos limitados retrasaron la implementación de la ley, reportó la Oficina de Privacidad.

NBC News reportó que en el 2011, el congreso aprobó una ley notificando que las agencias de protección infantil ofrezcan, a todos los jóvenes de 16-18 años quien están en el foster care, con revisiones gratuitas de sus créditos y asistencia para interpretar y resolver inconsistencias antes de cumplir la mayoría de edad en el sistema.

Los partidarios sostienen que las leyes estatales y federa-

les no han sido implementadas completamente y aunque se realicen revisiones, miles de jóvenes todavía salen del sistema con problemas de crédito sin resolver.

No existe "Nadie que presione los requisitos, los trabajadores sociales están notoriamente sobrecargados, y estos requisitos no siempre se cumplen," declaró Sam Cobbs, director de Primer Lugar para la Juventud, una organización de California para niños en el foster care. "Nunca a sido fácil trabajar con las agencias informativas de crédito," concluyó Cobb.

Traducción Miguel Quezada

Kid CAT (Creating Awareness Together) is a group of men that committed their crimes as teens and were sentenced as adults to life terms. The group's mission is to inspire humanity through education, mentorship, and restorative practices. Kid CAT Speaks wants to hear from the men and women juvenile lifers, educators, and policy makers concerning juvenile justice issues and rehabilitation.



# Two Families File Federal Lawsuits Over Inmate Deaths

*There were some prisoners who noticed that Parenti had a bluish hue on his face and summoned officers utilizing the phrase “Man down”*

**By Isaiah Thompson-Bonilla**  
**Journalism Guild Writer**

Two families have filed federal lawsuits claiming negligence in the death of a state prisoner and a jail inmate. One suit involves Dimitris Kalatzakis, imprisoned at Salinas Valley State Prison. The other involves Jacob Parenti, a Monterey County Jail prisoner, according to the *Monterey County Weekly*. Both were found dead in their sleeping quarters. The Monterey County coroner’s report concluded that Kalatzakis died from “blunt force trauma with strangulation,” allegedly murdered in October 2013 by his cellmate, Brandon Keen. The Dec. 28 suit names the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation, saying prison officials knew of Keen’s skinhead gang affiliation and activity. Keen was serving 25 years for mayhem and was convicted of attacking another prisoner while he was housed in the Riverside County Jail, slashing the inmate with a razor in the face and ear. The Kalatzakis family alleges that the department’s policies and practices pertaining to the protection of prisoners were inadequate. The family also said CDCR policy states that inmates with prior violence toward cellmates should not be doubled celled. Salinas Valley State Prison is known to be one of the most violent prisons in the state, the newspaper stated. The suit says the rate of inmate-on-inmate homicides there from August 2013 to December 2013 was the highest of any CDCR maximum-security prison. Parenti’s family is alleging that his death on Jan. 16, 2014, was due to inadequate medical treatment. The family’s account of events, as reported by the newspaper, is as follows: Parenti developed flu-like symptoms Jan.10, and around the same time, began coughing up blood. He did not receive a medical appointment for a sick call request he put in that same day, nor did he receive one following another request Jan. 12. On Jan. 15, Parenti was called along with other prisoners who were scheduled to see the nurse. Parenti was non-responsive when an officer was said to have gone over to Parenti’s bunk and shook him. According to the article, Parenti was still breathing when the officer was present. There were some prisoners who noticed that Parenti had a bluish hue on his face and summoned officers utilizing the phrase “Man down.” Information was not furnished as to when Parenti was pronounced dead; however, the coroner’s report concluded Parenti died of drug intoxication, induced by the use of multiple drugs. The Parenti family sought an independent autopsy, which concluded that he died from the flu and that was complicated by pneumonia. Parenti, 33, leaves behind a 7-year-old son. Both lawsuits were filed in Monterey County.

# Oregon Enacts Broad Criminal Justice Reforms To Thwart Costs and Size of its Prison System

**By Wesley R. Eisiminger**  
**Staff Writer**

Oregon has broadly changed its sentencing and corrections system, cut costs and stabilized its prison population since the enactment of legislation, according to a Pew Charitable Trust report. The report quoted then-Gov. John Kitzhaber as saying in 2012, “With Oregon’s biennial corrections budget now exceeding \$1.4 billion, we can no longer delay improvements to our corrections system here in Oregon. It’s time for us to re-examine which policies are working and fix those that are not providing a clear benefit to our public safety.” The new legislation, House Bill 3194, aims to prioritize prison beds for serious and violent criminals, initiate practices to reduce recidivism and establish objective measures of the criminal justice system and the use of corrections dollars. According to the Nov. 1 report, from 2000 to 2012 Oregon’s prison population had grown from fewer than 9,500 inmates to more than 14,000, and from a cost of \$976 million to \$1.3 billion a year. “At the same time, funding was cut for critical public safety programs, including state police, county sheriffs, community corrections and victim services.” Under the new law, many nonviolent offenders now can serve shorter times of incarceration and be effectively supervised without jeopardizing public safety, Pew reported. The resulting cost savings can be used for the most expensive correctional resources, including prison for serious and violent offenders. The new law’s projected savings will allow the state to postpone reopening shuttered facilities and shelve plans to build an additional prison, Pew said. It is expected to save \$17 million during the 2013-2015 budget cycle and projections for the next budget cycle will save as much as \$67 million. Some of the primary goals of the new law are: “Ensure prison beds are focused on serious violent offenders.” “Promote sustainable use of corrections resources.” “Reinvest in Oregon’s public safety system.” Though it will take several years for the full impact of HB 3194 to be known, the report said the signs are promising, and the number of inmates will grow less than 4 percent over the next 10 years.

# Non-Violent Three Strikers Released But Lack Reentry Support

The transition from prison to freedom is being eased for hundreds of former inmates given beds in community rehabilitation centers. An estimated 1,000 non-violent three strikers have been released in the wake of Proposition 36, which voters approved in 2012, reported the *San Jose Mercury News*. Initially they were not eligible for re-entry services. Now they are being allowed to fill available beds in community facilities from Yolo to San Diego counties. The arrangement was worked out involving the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation, Stanford’s Three Strikes Project, state Senate Pro Tem Darrell Steinberg, D-Sacramento and state Supreme Court Chief Justice Tani Cantil-Sakauye. “Here’s a great example — government can work,” said Shelley Curran, a Judicial Council of California manager. The lack of resources for this demographic became apparent with the realization that these non-violent three strikers would not be on parole, thus leaving them without access to programs readily available to parolees. Michael Romano, director of the Three Strikes Project, lauded the prison system for its work in helping foster this deal, citing that this was a huge step in the right direction. “They did the right thing here by opening parole support services to people who desperately need help,” Romano said. Proposition 36 did not set up any relief services to accommodate the large number of lifers that would be released. —By Isaiah Thompson-Bonilla

# Portland Jails Adopt Video Visitations

*‘While adding this technology can seem appealing at first glance, replacing in-person visits with video visits is shortsighted and counterproductive’*

# Report: Residential Areas With High Incarceration Rates Likely Suffer From Stress

**By Chung Kao**  
**Journalism Guild Writer**

Residents in neighborhoods with high incarceration rates are more likely to suffer from depression and anxiety, according to a recent article in *The New Republic*. The story quotes researchers at Columbia University’s Mailman School of Public Health. They found elevated rates of major depressive disorder and generalized anxiety disorder in neighborhoods with higher than average imprisonment rates. The researchers reached the conclusion by cross-referencing address data from Michigan prison admissions files and mental health information from the Detroit Neighborhood Health Study, with additional information from 4,180 individuals questioned by phone, the author said. “There’s absolutely no reason to believe that any of the damage done to mental health in Detroit is any different than it is in any other major city in this country,” said Katherine Keyes, an epidemiologist and one of the researchers in the study. “The researchers found that removing large numbers of people from a community disrupts what they call the ‘social ecology.’ It limits the availability of family and friends to provide the support, comfort, and assistance that helps sustain human mental health,” the author said. “In other words, when the threat of jail time is in the air, and your support network is diminished, the risk of major depression and debilitating anxiety grow.” “A study showing that elevated community incarceration rates create ripple effects that unnerve human beings may sound obvious. But the findings matter (in) a country where nearly 3 percent of the adult population is in prison, on probation or parole, and federal officials estimate that one in three Black men will be ensnared in the criminal justice system in their lifetime,” the author cautioned.

**By Kevin D. Sawyer**  
**Journalism Guild Chairman**

Investigative work done by the research group Prison Policy Initiative (PPI) was recently used by state and private organizations to pressure a county in Portland, Ore, to change a visiting policy in its jails. “Thanks to pressure from the public and county legislators as well as persistent investigative reporting by Portland newspaper *Street Roots* that heavily cites our research, on Jan. 27 the Sheriff announced that he would overturn the ban (on contact visits), PPI reported.” The sheriff of Multnomah County (Oregon) had signed a contract with Securus Technologies, one of the vendors that lead the industry in the video visiting and prison pay phone markets. The contract was to provide video visitation services in county jails which then banned in-person visits, according to PPI. Families were then forced to choose between the time and expense to travel to jails to see loved ones through a computer screen visit, or pay \$1 per minute to visit from home using a personal computer. “While adding this technology can seem appealing at first glance, replacing in-person visits with video visits is shortsighted and counterproductive,” PPI reported. According to PPI, the sheriff plans to amend the contract previously negotiated and signed with Securus. This will restore in-person visits. “This is clear evidence that county jails, if they are committed to doing so, can successfully insist on changes to these harmful contracts,” PPI reported.



# Day of Peace Brings Art to the Lower Yard

By Tommy Winfrey  
Arts Editor

For the last two years, the Day of Peace committee has brought art to the San Quentin yard.

On April 25 artists created acrylic paintings on canvas board to display their ideas of peace. Each painting was dedicated to a self-help group or program at San Quentin.

Some artists painted while out on the yard, which added an artsy vibe to the music from live bands. Others painted their works of art in the week leading up to the event.

Six of the paintings were actually finished on the yard by the open-air artists.

Although rain was predicted on the day of the event, the weather held off long enough for these six artists to do their magic.

All of the art supplies were provided by the Day of Peace committee, which is funded by outside donations.

Jun Hamamoto supervised the artists while they worked in the studio.

The easels for displaying the



Photo by Sam Hearnes

Bruce Fowler produced a plane dropping a peace bomb on San Quentin



Photo by Sam Hearnes

Hope for Lifers group presented an art piece of a girl with flowers with her gesturing a peace sign

artwork were built by Duane Holt and Tony Passer in the Vocational Building Maintenance program. "I made them out of reclaimed wood to be green and be in alignment with the Day of Peace message," said Holt.

This year's art was more dynamic, and the talent level has increased. "I thought the art wasn't so much like poster art as it was last year. I think the artistic talent was better displayed," said Danny Plunkett, treasurer

of the Day of Peace.

"I could tell the artists were putting their heart into their work. It was nice to see people contributing to the day," said Joseph Marquez, viewing the art.

Artist Antwan Williams allowed visitors and inmates to add to his painting by placing their thumbs covered in either White or red paint on his Ted X creation. The result was a canvas covered in inspirational thoughts surrounded by the prison community's thumbprints.

The day also featured a chalk art contest. Third place winner, Carlos Flores, won for his representation of a peace sign exploding out of the depths of nothingness. He said, "I can't believe I won anything. I feel honored."

Close to 20 people entered the chalk art competition, and Nicola Bucci won first place with his depiction of a bird on a peace sign. Bucci received a set of colored pencils and drawing paper for his winning piece.

All of the paintings were donated to the Day of Peace and will be auctioned off by Mind-

ful Peace Building, a nonprofit that sponsors the Day of Peace. Proceeds from the auction will help fund next year's Day of Peace, according to committee member Plunkett.

"It was my responsibility to organize the art this year, and I tried to find artists to represent the groups because I think art is a big component of the day," said Plunkett.

He went on to say that as a committee, they try to create a space for the event, but it is up to the population to establish the mood of the day.

"Art definitely helped to create the mood this year," confirmed Plunkett.

Bruce Fowler painted a plane dropping a peace bomb on San Quentin for the Veteran's Group. "I am happy if the painting brought a moment of joy to anybody who saw it," said Fowler.

"The art becomes part of the landscape, and it makes people feel like they're not in prison for the day," said Plunkett.

By the end of this Day of Peace, there were 21 paintings either finished or in process of being finished.



Photo by Sam Hearnes

Artists showcasing their skills on the sidewalk. Nicola Bucci won first place with his depiction of a bird on a peace sign

## Jazz Legend Frank Morgan Honored in Featured Documentary

By Kevin D. Sawyer  
Journalism Guild Chairman

Legendary jazz saxophone player Frank Morgan was honored for a second time at San Quentin State Prison. *Sound of Redemption: The Frank Morgan Story*, a documentary film, was shown in the prison's Protestant Chapel in April.

In 2012, jazz icons paid tribute to Morgan in a live performance to a packed audience of inmates, staff, and outside guests. *Sound of Redemption* is the fruit of that evening when Mark Gross, saxophone, George Cables, piano, Marvin "Smitty" Smith, drums, Ron Carter, bass, Grace Kelly, saxophone, and Delfeayo Marsalis, trombone, made history here.

The film captures the performance and portrays Morgan's life, from his childhood struggles to being on his way to musical stardom when he became addicted to heroin.

Morgan spent the next 30 years in and out of prison, vainly searching for a repeat of that

first high.

"It was as if someone else had control of my life other than myself. And I was naïve enough to believe I was having a good time," Delfeayo Marsalis says in the film, quoting Morgan on his use of heroin.

The film's director, N.C. Heikin, and executive producers James Egan and Michael Connelly, came to San Quentin to show the film and to document the inmates' reactions.

Heikin videotaped inmates and asked them questions about *The Frank Morgan Story*. She wanted to know if they had attended the 2012 taping of the tribute concert.

"I found it very intense and enjoyable," said Paul Oliver. "I didn't know it was that powerful."

Oliver, who plays drums, attended the original filming of the 2012 concert. "When I play I'm actually not here. It's my tunnel out of here," said Oliver. "I could relate to him (Morgan) making mistakes."

Approximately 75 inmates

attended the film presentation. While its message may have been powerful for those who attended the screening, many others missed it, in spite of the event fliers posted in the prison cell blocks.

"A lot of men enjoyed the show," said Lt. Sam Robinson, the prison's Public Information Officer. "There wasn't that great of an interest (generally), which was striking."

Lt. Robinson said San Quentin hopes to be able show *Sound of Redemption* on the prison's closed circuit television station. Currently the film is released for viewing at film festivals.

"I met him (Morgan) in 1979 or 1980," said Ar-Raheem Malik, an inmate who recently was found suitable for parole after more than 35 years of incarceration. "I thought the movie was good. The main reason was he talked about the tragic life from using heroin. People can learn from the movie because heroin took him down a dark path."

"You can only try to kill

yourself on a daily basis for so long; eventually you're going to succeed," said an anonymous voice in the film.

Ed Reed, a former inmate and friend of Frank Morgan, attended the screening and said, "There was no yesterday and no tomorrow," when he used heroin. "We were all doing life on the installment plan." Reed is a recovering addict. He now does drug counseling.

"I know he (Morgan) went through a lot of adversity, but he overcame it through his music," said Lee James, an inmate who viewed the film. "I'm a jazz fanatic so I know all about him."

Arnulfo Garcia contributed to this article.



Photo by Sam Hearnes

Lt. Robinson and film producer James Egan pose with *Sound of Redemption*: The Frank Morgan Story poster



# ¡Que Viva el Cinco De Mayo!

Jorge Heredia

¿Como se dice Cinco De Mayo en Francés?

Mucha gente disfrutara una cerveza fría este Cinco De Mayo ¿Pero cuantas personas saben porque lo están celebrando?

Algunas personas ahora saben que la celebración del Cinco De Mayo conmemora la victoria del Ejército Mexicano sobre los Franceses, pero pocos conocen la historia de los desagradables eventos que culminaron en la victoria y por lo cual los Estadounidenses desde entonces lo celebran tan efusivamente a la par de los Mexicanos.

Según la Crónica de la Cultura de las Americas, el conflicto data desde Abril de 1838, cuando una expedición Francesa tomó por asalto el fuerte del pueblo de San Juan de Ulúa. Los barcos bloquearon el puerto de Veracruz para demandar el pago por supuestas pérdidas sufridas por súbditos del Rey Francés Luís Felipe después de haber sido expulsados de México.

México rechazo la demanda Francesa, con lo cual barcos Franceses continuaron bloqueando el puerto de Veracruz y bombardearon la ciudad. La paz fue lograda con la ayuda mediática de Inglaterra. La crisis termino en Marzo 9, de 1839 con una victoria diplomática Mexicana.

La segunda invasión Francesa vino en 1862, cuando el nuevo gobierno del Presidente Mexicano Benito Juárez estaba envuelto en problemas domésticos y exteriores. En los años que siguieron, la caída del segundo imperio Mexicano y restauración de la Republica Mexicana estuvo caracterizada por faccionalismo político, caos y gran miseria por todo el país.

Donald W. Miles, autor, dice que en Abril 9, 1862, en Veracruz la alianza tripartita de Francia, Inglaterra y España fue disuelta, solo quedando tropas Francesas en México. Francia tomando ventaja del frágil poder económico y militar de México intento conquistar el país Azteca en 1861, usando la excusa de procurar el reembolso por la deuda, a pesar de la bancarrota



en la que se encontraba México al momento.

Los conservadores lideres Mexicanos, aún dolidos por su derrota en la guerra civil a manos del partido liberal de Juárez, solicitaron la ayuda de las monarquías Europeas, incluyendo Napoleon III de Francia, según Miles. A principios de 1862, tropas Francesas ocuparon la Ciudad de México y crearon una Asamblea Superior de Notables, los cuales estuvieron de acuerdo acerca de la forma de gobierno hereditaria constitucional monárquica, cual sería personificada por Ferdinand

Maximilian Joseph de Habsburgo, archduke of Austria.

Los Franceses tomaron por asalto la ciudad de Orizaba, Veracruz, donde a mediados de Abril ellos escribieron un acta en la cual la autoridad de Juárez era desconocida y el General Juan Almonte era proclamado el Presidente de México.

Esto condujo a la gran batalla de Puebla en Abril 12, de 1862, finalizando con la victoria Mexicana sobre los Franceses el Cinco de Mayo de ese año. La sangrienta batalla tuvo lugar en el Cerro de Guadalupe. “Lorencez envió ola tras ola de tropas Fran-

cesas quienes en los fuertes eran rápidamente decapitados a punta de machetazos por Indios Zacapoaxtlecas,” Miles escribe. El General de Brigada Porfirio Díaz, quien más tarde se convirtió presidente de México, tomo su caballería para salir al encuentro y abatió los atacantes Franceses que quedaban vivos, según Miles.

Sin embargo, los esfuerzos de Diaz no duraron mucho, porque diez meses más tarde los Franceses pusieron al archiduke Austriaco Ferdinand Maximilian en el poder—dándole el titulo de nuevo emperador de México en Junio de 1864, Miles dice.

El emperador Maximilian tampoco duro mucho, pues él fue capturado en Mayo 15, de 1867. Y con órdenes de Juárez, en Junio 19, de 1867, Maximilian fue fusilado junto a sus generales en el Cerro de las Campanas en Querétaro, México.

Simultáneamente, en Mayo de 1862. El Presidente Abraham Lincoln tenía mucho de que preocuparse. Según la Crónica de la Cultura de las Americas, los Estados Unidos estaba al borde de la autodestrucción por su propia mano (¡UNA GUERRA CIVIL estaba sucediendo!). Lincoln tenía los enormes recursos industriales de los estados del Norte a su disposición, pero las

fuerzas Confederáles del Sur eran empedernidos luchadores en su busca por la secesión. Las tropas enemigas se descuartizaban entre ellos por decenas de miles con ningún claro ganador al momento. Si alguien del exterior se hubiera aliado con el Sur, eso pudiera haber sido suficiente para inclinar la balanza y dividir el país para siempre. Según la historia, tal aliado estaba haciendo su entrada a través de México. Éste era el ejército de primera clase-mundial de Napoleon III, sobrino de Napoleon Bonaparte.

¿Que habría sucedido si las tropas de Napoleon hubieran conquistado México, establecido su propio gobierno monárquico, el Emperador Maximilian, y después haber procedido hacia el norte y ayudar a los Confederáles dividir los Estados Unidos en dos menos amenazantes naciones?

En las palabras de Miles, “Los Estados Unidos nunca se hubiera convertido en el importante poder mundial que es hoy día. Otra nación ocuparía el territorio donde los estados del sur de EE.UU. hoy se ubican, y la nación que conocemos como México probablemente aún estaría dominada por Francia. En vez de eso, los Mexicanos no solo retomaron su país, pero enforzarón la Doctrina Monroe e influenciaron el resultado de la Guerra Civil Estadounidense.”

¿Como las compañías cervezeras convirtieron este gran momento histórico en un *Día de Borrachera Internacional*? Bien, pues cada buena victoria merece su debida celebración. Además, si pudimos mantener a los Franceses a raya y salvaguardar la soberanía de ambas naciones, para que preocuparse.

Yo digo, *laissez sánte et aimer la vie, alors que nous faire délicieux de la viande rôtir barbecue. Allons-y! Que la fête commence, et Que Vive Mai le cinq!* (ahique brindar y disfrutar la vida mientras cocinamos una sabrosa carne asada. ¡Vamos! Que comience la celebración, y ¡Que Viva el Cinco De Mayo!). Pero recuerde, su enfoque siempre tiene que estar en la educación, no en la cerveza.



File photo

En celebración del 5 de Mayo una pareja interpreta “Danza Folklórico”

## What Do Prisoners Know About Cinco de Mayo?

By Angelo Falcone  
Journalism Guild Writer

The month of May is one of seven months with 31 days. This year, May will have five Fridays, five Saturdays, and five Sundays. May holds some interesting and exciting events and observances.

The boxing match between Manny Pacquiao and Floyd Mayweather was on May 2, Cinco de Mayo on May 5, Mother's Day on May 10, the Ascension of the Lord on May 14, the Day of Pentecost and St. Mary is May 24, and Memorial Day is on May 25.

According to the World Almanac, May is Clean Air Month, Get Caught Reading Month, National Barbecue Month, Asian Pacific American Heritage Month, National

Inventors Month and National Mental Health Month.

There are two astrological signs in May: Taurus, the sign of the Bull (April 20 to May 20) and Gemini, the sign of the Twins (May 21 to June 21). The birthstone for the month of May is the Emerald.

One of the celebration days during the month of May is Cinco de Mayo. But do people know what May 5 commemorates? Asked On The Line asked men on the mainline to see if they knew the answer.

Lenny Rideout said, “I think Cinco de Mayo commemorates a war between Mexico and...I think it's the French. It commemorates the war that Mexico

won in the 1800s.”

Eddie Herena said, “I think Arnulfo [Garcia] said it is a day when Mexicans get together and drink, without them understanding what they are drinking for.”

Daniel Thongsy said, “It's not Independence Day—something to do with a war that was won in Mexico.”

Carlos Flores said, “I think it was the expulsion of the French out of Mexico by village farmers. The farmers fought back the French with farm tools.”

Sam Hearn said, “Cinco de Mayo is the celebration of the Latin culture.”

Aaron Taylor said, “Cinco de Mayo deals with the one of

the significant battles that took place for Mexican Independence, although it's not Mexican Independence Day.”

Mesro Coles-El said, “Cinco de Mayo celebrates Mexican heritage and independence.”

Raymond Bodine said, “One of the days that Mexico became independent from European powers. It's one of two key days.”

Jesus Flores said, “Cinco de Mayo was to remember and celebrate the victory of the Battle of Puebla.”

Quinton Walker said, “It's for the recognition of the Mexican Independence.”

*Jesus Flores came closest to answering the question. The great battle of Puebla commenced on April 12, 1862, and a final victory was declared on May 5, 1862. With this victory,*

*Mexico rid itself of a French-imposed emperor (Maximilian I) and assumed control of its own destiny.*



A painting depicting the battle of Puebla



# Code.7370 Teaches Prisoners Viable Job Training in Computer Coding



Photo by Sam Hearnes

'My biggest fear was what type of life I would have upon my release. Thanks to Code.7370, I have the answer'

*Continue from Page 1*

June.

"When I first came to this class, I was at ground zero. But, I had a willingness to learn," said Schuhmacher. "My biggest fear was what type of life I would have upon my release. Thanks to Code.7370, I have the answer."

Schuhmacher said in six months of training he did 679 hours of coding.

"The 679 hours have changed the trajectory of my life," he said. "It has inspired me to want to pay this gift forward. Upon my release I'd like to donate 679 hours of my time to give others the opportunity to learn what I've learned."

Graduate Damon Cooke said learning coding was life-changing for him, his family and his community.

"A lot of people believe the mantra that men can't change their lives when they are in prison," Cooke said. "But, Coding.7370 taught me due diligence, perseverance, persistence and that the mantra isn't true. Before coding, I couldn't tell you the difference between a function and for loop. Now, I can deal with methods and operators."

Graduate Jorge Heredia said, "This certificate means that I add a notch to my life's value. It is a stepping stone that will be able to make my life and those around me better. It certifies that I am able to create something, and I'm on the right track."

PIA General Manager Charles Pattillo emphasized that this was the first time prisoners were taught coding. The annual cost to run the program is between \$60,000 and \$70,000, he noted.

"The next step is to get with private companies that would take contracts that would nor-

mally go overseas and give them to these graduates," said Pattillo.

Due to the vetting process the companies must undergo, the companies could not be named. However, Pattillo said there are five companies being vetted.

"I feel like a proud mom," said Parenti while looking at the graduates. Referring to program supervisor Gripshover, Parenti said, "Jon is the perfect fit for this program. He leaves his home at 4 a.m. each morning to get here. He's dedicated to this program."

Graduate Harry Hemphill, once employed by Volvo and Yamaha, said his addiction to drugs was his gateway to prison.

"I'll be getting out of prison going to a new world that I'm unfamiliar with. Code.7370 is my second chance in life. It gives me hope and confidence that when I return to society I can be a productive member. Jon (Gripshover) did an outstanding job getting us the resources needed for this program. He got down in the trenches and pulled us forward."

Co-founder Redlitz said, "We want this idea to be replicated and duplicated all over. We've been able to navigate through a lot of challenges. But, the administration PIA, and Hack Reactor worked with us to get this program going." Redlitz pointed to Pattillo and said, "Chuck is a can-do man."

One of the newest volunteers to the Coding.7370 program is 27-year-old Hans Schoenburg, a software engineer.

"I found that coming here and helping puts my professional life in the present. It allows me to give back, and have gratitude," Schoenburg said, "I have friends who teach in prison and they say that inmates are most engaged students."

Deputy Warden Kelly Mitch-

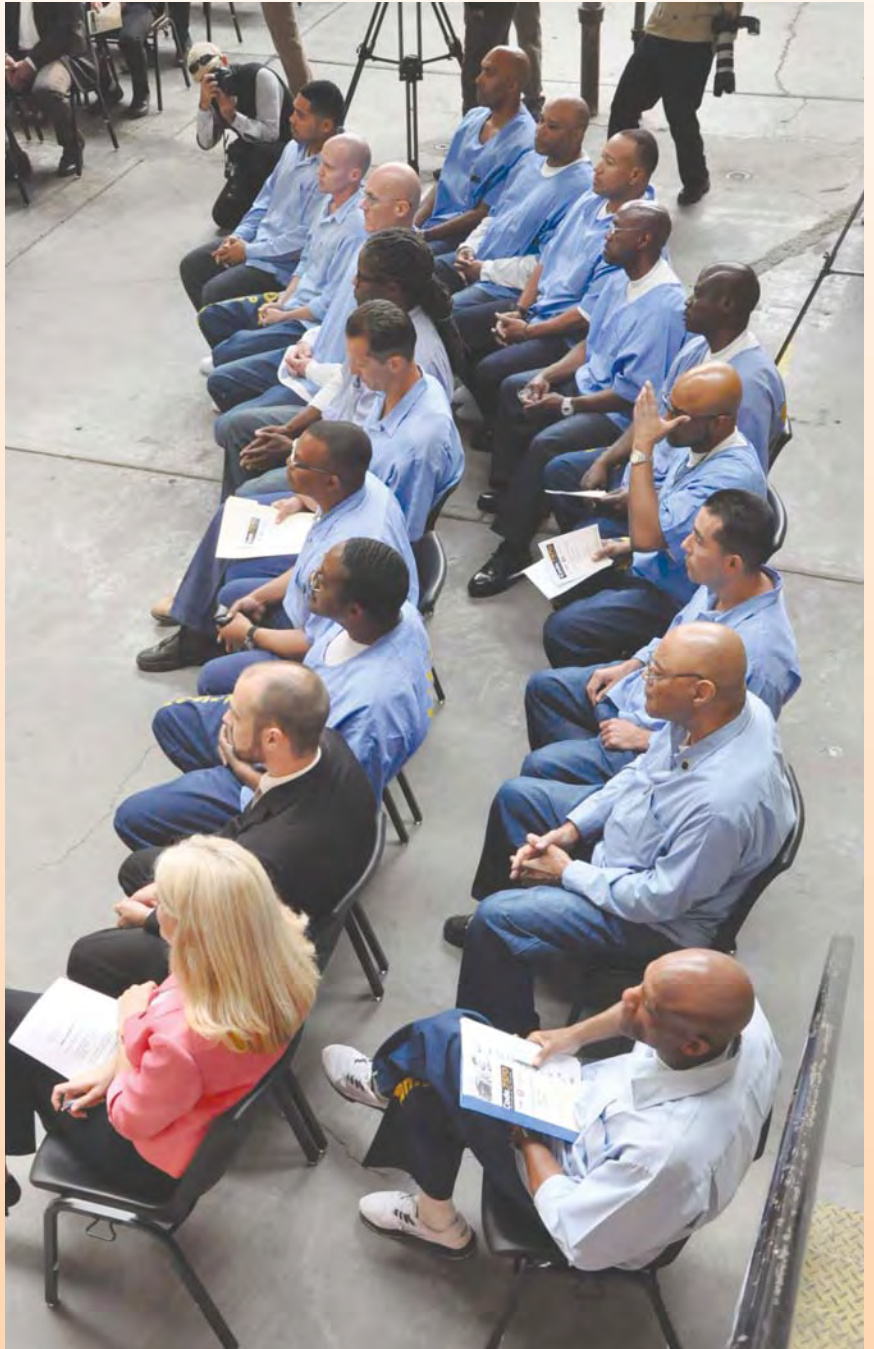


Photo by Sam Hearnes

Coding team listens to guest speakers and waits to receive their certifications

ell thanked Redlitz and Parenti for bringing the program to San Quentin.

Mitchell looked at the graduates and said, "You're given the resources you need so that you don't come back. I truly believe that this class is preparing you for that. We hope that this will give you the skills to get a job at what you like doing."

"Everyone in the country is talking about this class," said Brante Choate, from the Office of Correctional Education in CDCR. "It is catching worldwide attention."

CALPIA trains approximately 8,000 offenders per year in service, manufacturing, and agricultural industries in California's penal institutions.

CALPIA is self-supporting and does not receive an appropriation from the state budget.

CALPIA has 11 other highly skilled training programs in



Photo by Sam Hearnes

Jerome Boone explains to a reporter how to design a website

the Career Technical Education (CTE) programs, in addition to Coding.7370.

CTE carpentry, construction labor, modular building, computer training in Microsoft, and underwater welding programs are some of the most effective correctional rehabilitation pro-

grams in California, Pattillo told the audience. CTE graduates have a cumulative recidivism of 7.13 percent, according to CDCR.

Pattillo told the students that the best way they could repay society is getting out of prison and staying out.



# Arts & Entertainment

## Sudoku Corner

5		7	9	4				
1		4	8					7
9			6					
2		3				6		
	5						2	
		1				7		3
					6			1
7					1	5		2
				8	2	4		6

1			6	2	5		8	9
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		9						
9						2		1
				4				
5		4						6
						1		
			8	5	7		2	4
4	2		1		3			8

*"Men stumble over the truth from time to time, but most pick themselves up and hurry off as if nothing happened."* –Sir Winston Churchill



Libby Raney with the paper on the streets of London at the Waterloo Bridge

Last Issue's Sudoku Solution																	
6	4	9	2	1	8	7	5	3	2	3	1	6	5	8	4	7	9
3	8	5	9	4	7	2	6	1	5	7	8	3	4	9	2	6	1
1	7	2	5	6	3	4	8	9	4	6	9	7	1	2	8	3	5
4	1	3	7	9	5	6	2	8	1	5	3	8	6	7	9	2	4
5	6	8	1	2	4	9	3	7	8	4	2	9	3	5	6	1	7
2	9	7	8	3	6	1	4	5	6	1	7	2	8	4	5	9	3
9	3	6	4	8	1	5	7	2	3	8	5	1	6	7	2	3	9
7	2	4	3	5	9	8	1	6	2	4	3	5	9	8	1	6	2

## Snippets

Victory was in favor of Fidel Castro's troops in the 'Bay of Pigs' during the U.S. attempt to overthrow Castro. The operation was poorly executed; as a result, the battle was an easy victory for Cuba.

In the 1968 Summer Olympics, Tommie Smith and John Carlos earned gold and bronze medals in the 200m (track and field). During the medal presentation they gave the Black Power salute.

Christian missionaries landed in Japan over 450 years ago. Hundreds of thousands were converted into Christianity.

The currency of East Timor is the U.S. dollar even though it is a tiny country in Southeast Asia.

Opium smokers in China can get punished with up to 100 blows from a bamboo stick and forced to wear a collar made of heavy wood for up to a month even longer.

Russia relinquished its imperial control over Finland after the Russian Revolution.

Yugoslavia had the fifth-strongest army in Europe while Tito was in power.



Wiñay Wayna (means forever yours) is an Inca Site, an elevated perch overlooking the Urubumba River. The Inca terraced the entire mountain side for growing food.

Featured photo courtesy of P. Jo



# Soul Force: The Moral Struggle for Justice!

By Watani Stiner  
Contributing Writer

*"We must not allow our creative protest to degenerate into physical violence. Again and again, we must rise to the majestic heights of meeting physical force with soul force."* — Martin Luther King, Jr.

As I reflect on my past, which was once my present, I find that it is this soul force for justice that proves to be the most effective and sustainable in the fight against racism.

I was an active participant in the Black Power movement of the 1960s. Similar to today, it was a period when America was confronted with the issue of police brutality and the devaluing of Black lives. It was a time when young people across this country were breaking through racist barriers, opening up closed doors of opportunity and raising critical questions about war and the unequal distribution of wealth and power. It was a time when Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. raised the banner of non-violence. King is remembered for his nonviolence (sometimes scornfully by those who take the view that violence is necessary for social change) and for his "dream." But is he remembered enough for his uncompromising moral struggle for social justice?

For me and many of my peers at the time, the struggle against injustice was much more a

## An 'OG's' Perspective



Photo courtesy of Oakland Tribune

Watani Stiner poses for a picture during an interview with the *Oakland Tribune*

physical struggle than it was a moral one. To us, *soul force* was elusive, intangible, and therefore no match for the violent impact of physical force. Our generational struggle against injustice was by "any means necessary!"

Over the past few months, there has been a national outcry over deadly instances of police misconduct in this country, and a social momentum seems to be building around this very real

and relevant issue of racism and police brutality. Our African-American president publicly acknowledged the deep-seated racism in this country, and the widespread police killings of young Black and Brown men across this country. Michael Brown, Eric Garner and so many others serve to illustrate his claim. (There are also daily episodes of senseless intercommunity violence of epidemic

proportions, young Black men senselessly killing other young Black men. We must not make comparative excuses for the loss of Black lives. Black lives matter, regardless of who pulls the trigger.)

In years past, there were essentially two tendencies in the protest movement against racial injustice and for social change: (1) Civil Rights; and (2) Black Power. The civil rights movement spoke to the conscience of this nation, compelling America to do a thorough self-examination over the mistreatment of its Black citizens. The Black Power tendency was to demand that America not only forsake its evil ways but do so immediately, or there would be consequences.

Examining my own life experience, I've come to realize that those consequences inevitably lead to more violence and only promote a perpetual cycle of *unintended* consequences. Being involved in the Black Power movement was crucial for me. It allowed me to reclaim and reconnect with my history, instilled in me a sense of racial pride, self-respect and a commitment to self-defense. It made me feel that I could and must make a worthy contribution to humanity because I was

more than the lies that had been taught to me by White society. I was Black, I was proud, and I was human!

But I have come to see that the fatal flaw of our vision was that the means were not as pure as the ends. This is where MLK had a wisdom I have now come to treasure, a wisdom drawn from his desire to imitate Jesus. "Means and ends must cohere because the end is preexistent in the means, and ultimately destructive means cannot bring about constructive ends." Throughout my journey — here and in exile — I've seen the consequences of violence perpetrated by men of good intentions, for good causes!

King's way provided an example of *soul force*. He gave inspiration for hope in a vision of human society in which peace, equality and human dignity prevail. His soul force comes from a deep conviction, the same passionate conviction that says all lives matter, and that a free, egalitarian and just society is possible. The hope of that vision reverberates today, and continues to have the capacity to make justice a reality for all of God's children.

—*Watani Stiner was recently released from prison after serving 26 years at San Quentin State Prison. He's completing his memoir and is enjoying his freedom immensely — particularly the freedom he has to communicate with, spend time with and enjoy his children.*

## Financial Advisors Offer Recommendations on Smart Investment

*'We investigated what the company physically looks like. You don't have to be big to do these things'*

Freemen Capital, San Quentin's financial literacy class, received a visit in March from Arthur Chiakai Young and Paul Winston Blavin, financial managers from Tensile Capital Management LLC.

Young and Blavin offered advice about how to create savings from small investments and about the tax consequences of diversification and stock shorts. The dozen or so inmates who attended the class introduced themselves and asked Young and Blavin to describe their holdings in companies such as Apple, American Apparel, Tesla and Alibaba.

"We did lots of quantitative investigation before deciding to invest," Blavin said. "We met with company personnel, asked lots of questions. On the qualitative investigation, we investigated what the company physically looks like. You don't have to be big to do these things," he said. "You only need to be persistent and a hard worker. Think independently. Think correctly."

Blavin described how he had established Graceful Light Entertainment to utilize multimedia to enhance the impact of his philanthropic efforts.

Curtis "Wall Street" Carroll, often referred to as "The Oracle of San Quentin," said teaching prisoners how to properly manage their money is directly tied to public safety.



Photo by Sam Haines

The Financial Literacy team with advisors hanging out at the 'Day of Peace'

"We're not going to be able to make it on the \$200 gate money we're given when we're released from prison," Carroll said last month to a hedge fund manager and philanthropist who visited San Quentin's financial literacy class. "I am driven to see men take accountability in their lives."

Carroll advised inmates who have long sentences to start saving money while in prison because by the time they get out, many will be near retirement age.

In addition, Carroll said

teaching financial literacy to inmates and their families will reduce the percentage of children who grow up in poverty.

"I'm just the glue of this program," Carroll said. "These guys are going out and teaching their families what they've learned in here, and they are applying it right now."

Blavin said his business success is due to his instincts, honesty and ethical behavior, hard work, patience and a long-term focus on always investing in high-quality people. As a way for giving back, Blavin said he

and his wife, Amy, established the Blavin Scholars Program at the University of Michigan and Northern Arizona University to support young people aging out of foster care to achieve their dreams of a post-secondary education and a better life.

These endowments support 30 young men and women annually. The Blavins say their goal is to eventually support 100 scholars on an annual basis.

Blavin is a Founder of The Teen Project's Freehab program. Freehab, as the name suggests, is a free, residential, 12-step

drug and alcohol rehabilitation center. Blavin is also on the board of directors of HYPE LA-Helping Young People Excel, the South-Central Scholars and The Anti-Recidivism Coalition.

Young serves as the managing partner and co-portfolio manager of Tensile Capital Management LLC.

"Each generation should have it easier. So, teaching financial skills to children is very important. These days it is easy to get into credit problems and debt," Young told the inmates.

Several of the inmates in the class expressed excitement about what they've learned in the class.

"I'm taking this class so that I can help my daughter and grandson be independent and improve their lives," inmate Sam Johnson said.

Carroll said that earning money while incarcerated is not the only goal of the financial literacy class.

"We are a community of men that decided to give portions to charity," Carroll said. He added that inmates make a significant sacrifice in relation to their circumstances. "There's something to say for a person who is willing to put up \$200 as opposed to someone who can put up \$2 million."

The financial literacy program recently gave the Day of Peace committee a \$1,200 grant.

—*By Juan Haines*



# Federal Court Prods State to Consider Parole for Non-Violent Second Strikers

By **Rahsaan Thomas**  
Staff Writer

Under court orders, California's prison system has started processing non-violent second-strikers for parole consideration. A federal court ordered the process to begin Jan. 1, but it wasn't until March 13 that the classification committee reviewed non-violent second-striker Kacy Lloyd's case in San Quentin.

"I believe I'm the first second-striker to have his case referred to the parole board in San Quentin," said Lloyd.

A federal court issued a February 2014 order requiring the state "to create and implement a new parole process through which non-violent second-strikers (NVSS) will be eligible for parole consideration by the Board of Parole Hearings (BPH) once they have served 50 percent of their sentence," according to the Prison Law Office.

The court order is part of the Plata decision requiring the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation's prison population to be reduced to 137.5 percent of design capacity by Feb. 28, 2016, a goal the state has

met.

Lloyd has eagerly been awaiting a chance at parole since learning about the federal court's February 2014 order.

"I started going to the law library every week, checking to see when the state was going to begin referring non-violent second-strikers to the board," said Lloyd.

In September 2014, the Prison Law Office and other plaintiff lawyers filed a motion to the three-judge panel for a court order to make the state comply. In November 2014, the court ordered CDCR to begin considering NVSSs who met the criteria for parole by Jan. 1.

Lloyd, 41, said he meets the criteria for early release consideration.

He explained that he has served six years of a 10-year sentence, which is a year more than the required 50 percent of actual continuous time in custody needed. He was convicted for trafficking and distribution of narcotics, not any violent, serious or sex crime. He hasn't recently served a term in administrative segregation or been found guilty of any recent disciplinary infractions.

However, Lloyd was not immediately referred to the parole board.

"I started asking counselors questions about being referred to the board. They didn't know what I was talking about," said Lloyd.

On Jan. 11, Lloyd said he started writing everyone he could think of, including Case Records Analyst Dorothy Berry, her supervisor, Bolas, CCII K. Hilliard and Capt. P.J. Ericson. He didn't receive a response until after his counselor called Berry on March 2. Berry told his counselor that she forwarded his paperwork to Hilliard, according to Lloyd.

The next day Berry responded, "The screening process has started...your paperwork is entered into the system for potential referral. It is now up to your counselor to continue the process and refer it to BPH if you are eligible for release."

The next day, he showed Berry's response to his counselor, S. Malone.

After several delays, on March 13, the committee saw Lloyd and decided to refer him to the parole board.

"I felt nervous waiting to see committee. I couldn't be

referred to the board unless they said so," said Lloyd. "I sat there imagining what it must be like for a lifer."

Inmates have the first 30 days to submit any chronos, certificates or other paperwork.

"It is up to you, not your counselors, to send in all the paperwork you want the board to review, like certificates and chronos," said Lloyd.

Lloyd has prepared for release by earning his GED in June 2014. He also earned five welding certifications.

"My rehabilitation was setting myself up with a marketable skill so I would have an honest way to provide," said

Lloyd.

He has also taken self-help groups like Anger Management, the LA Project and the Staying Out Group.

Statewide, 664 NVSS were referred to the board from Jan. 1 through Feb. 28 for parole review. The board approved 10 inmates for release and denied nine.

However, "many cases are pending review because the 30-day period for written input from inmates, victims, and prosecutors has not yet elapsed," according to a March 16 update to the three-judge court submitted by the state.

## Parolees Continue To Pay for Criminal Convictions

By **Juan Haines**  
Managing Editor

U.S. criminal justice policies too often respond to people who are "sick, poor, homeless or unable to care for themselves or their families with the hammer of the criminal justice system," according to a study released late last year by the *Vera Institute of Justice*. "Then we continue to hammer them long after they have satisfied our need for retribution."

The study describes the post-sentence civil penalties, disqualifications or disabilities that occur from state or federal convictions as "collateral consequences of criminal convictions" or "collateral consequences."

The report says that the legal and life-restricting consequences of having a criminal conviction are "varied, and often bewildering," in addition to impacting employment, housing, education and immigration consequences.

However, the study doesn't account for restrictions imposed by the private sector, i.e., landlords, employers or university admissions officers, "which stem not from the express operation of the law, but from the social stigma suffered by individuals with a criminal record," *Vera* reports.

Nationwide, *Vera* finds that there are approximately 45,000 laws and rules that restrict the opportunities and benefits available to individuals with criminal histories. However from 2009 through 2014, 41 states and the District of Columbia enacted 155 pieces of legislation to reduce the burden of collateral consequences for people with certain criminal convictions.

U.S. Attorney General Eric Holder called on states to ease or abolish "unwise collateral consequences" that stop offenders from fully reintegrating into their communities, in a February 2014 speech at the National Association of Attorneys

General Winter meeting.

Holder said felon disenfranchisement laws are "unnecessary," "unjust" and "counterproductive," and "perpetuate the stigma and isolation imposed on formerly incarcerated individuals, [and] increase the likelihood they will commit future crimes."

*Vera* says one of the collateral consequences of having a criminal conviction is its destabilizing effect on families. More than half of state inmates and nearly two-thirds of federal inmates are parents of children under age 18. As of 2007, 2.3 percent of individuals under age 18 had at least one incarcerated parent, an increase of 80 percent since 1991.

Fathers in particular lose contact with their children, *Vera* finds. Only 40 percent of fathers behind bars have weekly contact of any kind with their child, and contact decreases as the sentence continues. More than half of these fathers never have an in-person visit with their children.

*Wall Street Journal* cites a 2011 study by the FBI that found one in three adults has been arrested by age 23, and law enforcement has made more than one-quarter billion arrests in the past 20 years, according to a Federal Bureau of Investigation report. In 2012 about 70.3 million U.S. adults had criminal records.

The report found that follow-up support for mental illness, substance abuse or education vocational skills or training was absent for the more than 637,000 men and women released from state and federal prisons, the nearly 2.6 million released from community supervision and the more than 11 million released from jail in 2012. "These issues, when left unaddressed, increase the risk of recidivism, and many of these people are returning to communities lacking the resources or services necessary to cope with these pressing needs," *Vera* reported.

## School's Restorative Justice Program Aims to Deal With Indifference



File photo

Kids at Edna Brewer Middle School 'circle's up' to resolve conflicts

*Continue from Page 1*

ing the program, according to a *National Public Radio* post late last year.

"Instead of throwing a punch, they're asking for a circle, they're backing off and asking to mediate it peacefully with words," said Ta-Biti Gibson, the school's Restorative Justice co-director. "And that's a great thing."

District Superintendent Antwan Wilson and other officials at Lakeview Elementary School said the Restorative Justice programs have had a measurable impact on school behavior and educational outcomes, reported the *Rockridge Patch*.

According to Wilson, keeping the students in class instead of

sending them home as a disciplinary measure has increased graduation rates by 60 percent and has had a 128 percent increase in reading levels for students at schools that use Restorative Justice.

*NPR* said that the percentage of students suspended at OUSD schools that have fully adopted the Restorative Justice program "has dropped by half, from 34 percent in 2011-12 to just 14 percent the following two years."

"Children involved with the program have been willing to resolve their differences with words," *NPR* reported.

Schools throughout the U.S. are exercising the Restorative Justice program. The cities of Chicago, Minneapolis, Palm Beach County and Denver are

among several implementing their versions of such a successful program.

### San Quentin's Restorative Justice Program:

San Quentin Restorative Justice Interfaith Roundtable Circle Program was founded in 2004 and is one of the most participated programs by inmates at the prison.

Several community volunteers show up on Wednesday and Thursday evenings, dedicating their time to promote the restorative justice principles.

"The waiting list for inmates to get in the program is long," said one of the community volunteers.



# Monsters and Men

By SQ Reviews

With the U.S. incarcerating more people than any other industrialized nation, it is not surprising that “the villain’s side of the story” has become a popular theme in entertainment media.

George Lucas’ last *Star Wars* trilogy tells the story of how love and loss transformed the Messiah-figure Anakin Skywalker from a galaxy’s hope into one of sci-fi’s most iconic villains, Darth Vader.

Vlad the Impaler (Dracula) impaled his way through Turkish troops in *Dracula Untold*, a film that delves beneath a macabre myth to produce a human story about a father protecting his son. On the CW’s new show *i-Zombie*, even zombies are airing their brain-eating side of the story.

Director Robert Stromberg’s *Maleficent* continues the trend of exploring monstrosity by telling the witch’s side of *Sleeping Beauty*.

## MOVIE REVIEW

*Maleficent* introduces the title character (played by Angelina Jolie) when she is a curious fairy child who falls in love with a human boy. The boy grows into the ambitious King Stefan (Sharlto Copley), who gains his kingship by trapping Maleficent and cutting off her wings. Driven by vengeance, Maleficent curses Stefan’s first-born child, Princess Aurora (Elle Fanning).

S.Q. Reviews gathers in the lot next to San Quentin’s Education Department. Rahsaan Thomas and Juan Meza are eager to talk about the monster’s side of *Sleeping Beauty*. They have spent their semester in Paten University’s prison program exploring monstrosity with volunteers Dr. Beatrice Kitzinger and Vera Shapirshteyn.

Thomas says, “We all read

*Sleeping Beauty* and *Snow White*. We were regular kids, but something changed; we became criminals.”

DeWeaver nods. “It goes back to the theme that runs from *Dracula Untold* to Mary Shelley’s *Frankenstein*. Monsters aren’t born; they’re made.”

“Exactly,” Thomas says. “I’m not saying villainy is justified; it’s not, but it is understandable. And when we understand a thing, we can fix it.”

Meza objects to Maleficent’s characterization as a villain.

“For me, she’s nature,” says Meza. “The human king cut off her wings to possess her power like men try to possess and dominate nature. So I don’t think it was villainy. It’s more justifiable indignation against a perpetrator.”

“She cursed an innocent

baby,” Thomas says. “Can’t call that justifiable.”

Meza waves his hands in negation. “The curse came from her father’s crimes, just as we inherit pollution’s curse from our fathers’ government policies.”

“Maleficent took the father’s crimes out on someone who’d done nothing to her,” Thomas says. “That’s villainy. When my brother was shot, I ran and left him. I felt hell’a shame for running. “And I hated the dude who shot my brother. I couldn’t cope. And for a lot of years, a lot of people who didn’t know me or my brother paid for what happened to me. That’s wrong.”

“There’s a lesson in *Maleficent* that I had to learn,” DeWeaver says. “Growing up, I felt life had screwed me, so I screwed it back. I told myself these stories to justify crime. I felt justified, feeling I was in the right, but *right* doesn’t mean anything if I’m perpetuating destructive cycles. Beginning any cycle might not have been my fault, but I could’ve chosen to end it, to step out of it.”

DeWeaver adds, “*Maleficent*



is a fairy tale, so it ended happily. In real life, we have to be more diligent in breaking destructive cycles because true love’s kiss won’t wake us from the nightmares bad choices make.”

We rated *Maleficent* four dinner cookies for telling our stories.

Contributors: Emile DeWeaver, Rahsaan Thomas, Juan Meza and John Chiu.

# Political Failures Behind Government Policies

By Juan Haines  
Managing Editor

Jose Saramago’s *Seeing* (2006) and Kafka’s *The Trial* (1923) have something in common: they both reveal the inherent disconnect between those who govern and those who are governed.

For me, the stories demonstrate the politics behind government policy and its failure to consider the everyday “man on the streets.”

In *The Trial*, Kafka refers to government officials with his line: *They’re constantly constricted by the law both night and day. They have no proper understanding of human relationships and in such cases they feel that keenly.*

In *The Trial*, Josef K is arbitrarily put on trial. He is told by a prison priest — in the midst of his trial and before his guilt or innocence has been determined — that he’s assumed guilty.

*But, I’m not guilty, said K. It’s a mistake. How could any person, in general, be guilty? We’re all human, after all, each and every one of us.*

*That’s right, said the priest. But, that’s how guilty people al-*

## BOOK REVIEW

*ways talk.*

*Are you prejudiced against me too, asked K.?*

These criticisms of concentrated power emphasize obscure or incomprehensible situations, which find human rights are only for a select few.

I was drawn to both stories by their similar interpretation of government officials: the idea that once a select few are given the powers to govern, they lose the capacity to understand the implications of their decisions — they don’t comprehend the pain they inflict on the very people they’ve sworn to protect.

Saramago makes that point here:

*The rash person who appeared to be ignorant of the basic tenet of social behavior, which teaches that in the house of the hanged man, one should never mention the word rope.*

To understand Saramago, one has to be dedicated and have a willingness to concentrate on his peculiar writing style.

*Seeing* is a story told after

there has been a city-wide election and the voters have cast blank ballots. The government’s reaction is paranoia and martial law.

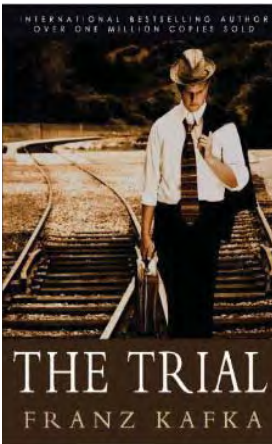
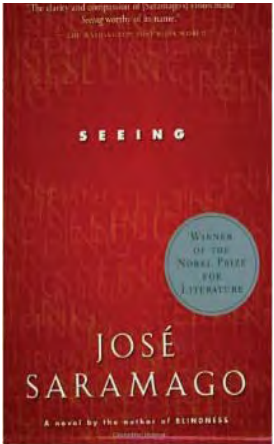
All top government officials, military and police evacuate the city and create a false narrative to re-establish normalcy, defined in their terms.

Saramago believes that: *Rights are not abstractions... people either deserve rights or they don’t...they continue to exist even when they’re not respected.*

Saramago shows his readers that making amends in spite of circumstance is a noble cause. However, he drives home the point that ingrained in the status quo is a constant element that sees anything contrary to the stability of government as severe and deadly.

Kafka’s Door Keeper character also shows the futility of resisting the status quo.

The Door Keeper explains how the Law works, while producing anguish in suspects told



the reality regarding their societal status. Oddly, Kafka has the Door Keeper give this information to suspects when it’s no longer relevant.

That being said, Josef K is told, *You don’t have to consider everything true; you just have to consider it necessary.*

K’s response shows the inherent gloom in “necessary” information:

*A depressing opinion, said K. Lies are made in a universal system; K said that with a finality.*

In the end I questioned the appearance of a dog in both stories.

Dogs represent various emotional states, from being a man’s comforter to being used as a derogatory moral statement about someone’s character.

I came away with a vague sense of missing something when reading about the significance of a howling dog at night or to die like a dog.

Still, for both Kafka and Saramago, death is merely a passing moment in their storytelling.

# New Database Created to Keep Tabs on Police Department

By Salvador Solorio  
Journalism Guild Writer

The Legal Aid Society has created a database of wrongdoing of 3,000 New York Police Department officers. Eventually the database can be used by defense attorneys to question the credibility of officers in court.

The goal of the Legal Aid Society project is to provide a clearing-house for records of police misconduct to share with defense lawyers all over the city. NYPD does not make such information public.

Throughout the United

States, police departments are being criticized for their lack of transparency. The Legal Aid’s database is an attempt to track officers with a history of civil rights violations and other kinds of misconduct. This information will force judges, prosecutors and juries to take officers’ past actions into consideration when adjudicating cases. If a defense attorney can successfully call into question the credibility of an arresting officer, a defense attorney may be able to convince a judge to let a defendant out of jail without bail or even dismiss the case entirely. Police

misconduct can also serve as a bargaining chip during plea negotiations.

Detective Sekou Bourne is currently being prosecuted in NYPD’s administrative court for allegedly improperly frisking a woman and unlawfully entering her home in 2013 after concluding she had crack cocaine in her hand. Justine Luongo, the attorney-in-charge of the Legal Aid Society’s criminal practice, did a search in the database that brought up reports of seven civil rights lawsuits that had been filed against the detective. All the cases ended in settlements. This informa-

tion could be useful for defense attorneys when prosecutors try to build a case against someone based on Bourne’s testimony.

The impetus for the database came from Cynthia Conti-Cook, a former civil rights lawyer. She says when a criminal case begins, typically there is a “big red arrow that says ‘criminal’ pointing to the defendant” and not much a defense attorney can say other than “my client denies the charges.” With the database, a lawyer can quickly discover records of past misconduct by the accusing officer if they exist. With that information in

hand, defense attorneys can “start shifting that red arrow toward the police officer, by showing that they’ve also been engaged in activity that deteriorates their credibility.”

Conti-Cook added, “It takes the judge’s attention away from what your client did wrong to get here and puts more of a burden on the police officer to prove that your client actually did something.”

Legal Aid wants to encourage a comprehensive uploading of information to the system such a complaints being dismissed that could not be substantiated and making note of outcomes.



# S.Q. Inmates Offer Their Ideas on Dealing With Community Tension Between Blacks and Police

By **Rahsaan Thomas**  
Staff Writer

When the Ferguson, Missouri, grand jury chose not to indict White police officer Darren Wilson for killing unarmed African-American Michael Brown, San Quentin prisoners watched television as protests erupted around the nation. Despite disappointment, the prisoners said they didn't want to give in to helplessness.

Inmates Demond Lewis, John "Yayah" Johnson and Eric Curtis met in San Quentin's gym to discuss how to stop the next Michael Brown or Oscar Grant from being killed by the police.

"If we can have a bad ripple effect, then we can have a good one too," said Lewis. "We have to let people know we care about them, and get them to carry our message out there. That's our contribution back to society."

Lewis, a 40-year-old from Perris, Calif., was sentenced to 109 years-to-life for shooting a man in the leg. Curtis, 46, from Compton, has served 20 years on a 50-to-life sentence for gun possession under the Three Strikes Law. Johnson, a 43-year-old from Oakland, is serving 30 years-to-life for bank robbery.

## Yard Talk

"Knowing about W.E.B. DuBois and MLK means nothing if I don't deal with my psychosis," said Johnson.

The conversation focused on taking accountability and community-based policing.

**Lewis:** The biggest issue we have is that...police work in communities that they don't live in. People from the community would be familiar with the residents of that neighborhood. This is how you build relationships. You have to be able to talk to them.

**Johnson:** It's hard to be mistreated if you have a reputation for doing good. If Ms. Jackson isn't saying nothing about the crack being sold next door, then she's condoning it. She's confirming all the stereotypes that bring the police. We have to get out of the mindset that stopping crimes in our community is snitching.

**Lewis:** If they use money for police technology to fight crime, they can use money to stop crime. Put in more cameras.

**Johnson:** We can put cameras on us and arm ourselves with technology.

**Lewis:** We can talk about all the White police in the world, but we have to police ourselves. If we aren't getting more involved in what the police do in our communities, then we are no better than they are.

**Johnson:** If we hold our people accountable first, then we don't have to worry about police bypassing leadership and dealing with it. Parenting your children, and showing a better way, keeps police from doing it.

**Curtis:** Kids need to start wearing slacks and shoes. If you change the way a child dresses, you can change the perceptions. That should be a start.

**Johnson:** ...**(T)hese** (police) are professionals. If someone is not committing a crime, it shouldn't matter how they are dressed. If an individual is operating under a bias, then it doesn't matter what a Black man is wearing.

**Curtis:** We as a people of color need to disassociate our-

selves from everybody else, not forever, but long enough to get ourselves together.

**Johnson:** Why do we hate each other for being from different hoods? We have to deal with these problems now to deal with the future. By realizing mistakes, we can pass on answers. It's not right police come and kill us, but it's not right we kill each other. Other people feel they have to check us because we're perceived to be uncaring about ourselves.

**Curtis:** I agree. There is so much we have to deal with from ourselves and outside people.

**Johnson:** Do you think we're alone in this? Look at all the White people you see. We can go back and use the civil rights movement as a platform. You have to tap into your power base.

**Demond:** We rarely take accountability for our actions. You have kids that believe that it is OK to get tattoos on their face because Lil Wayne did it. We don't dispel the myths. You can't tote pistols or shoot people like they do in video games or rap about. That's how I got 109 years.

**Johnson:** There is no one-size-fits-all solution. We have to

look at the most egregious killing by the police and see why they happen. So how do we as Black men change that? We have to be more active in our community. We can't have an us-against-them mentality. There is no better opportunity to use the system than now...to our benefit to shame them

No one on the panel believes riots are the answer.

**Johnson:** I understand the anger involved, but rioting is unnecessary. It's not a medium that solves the problem – it makes it worse. City Council should be the vehicle to deal with these issues and us.

**Lewis:** Who is actually tearing stuff up? You have people jumping in with hidden motives and all this is going under one heading – this is how they act; they get violent! It's not true that it's all Black people out there doing that.

**Johnson:** People can't sit back and allow these things to happen because it justifies the excess force the police want to use. If we lack the knowledge and community support to fight these types of things, they get away with it. I think racism can be contained in the face of goodness.

# Prisoner Advocates for Anti-Violence Against Women Campaign

By **Juan Haines**  
Managing Editor

An "anti-violence against women" campaign is underway at San Quentin State Prison, and its main supporter brings the issue to the forefront through gifts to his fellow inmates.

"I provide a range of free services from hemming pants to haircuts to shaving mirrors. I also do mattress renovation. I fluff them up for people with bad backs and other ailments," said Barton "Sky" Buena Vista, who started the Violence Against Women Awareness group at San Quentin. "I do these services to break down the stranger barrier."

Buena Vista believes that the free services creates a window for dialogue and is evidence of sincerity.

The concept is simple: appearance is important for delivering a message. "If I can assist a person by giving him a haircut, then that makes a good impression on listeners of our anti-violence campaign," he said.

According to Buena Vista, he was only able to realize his own misconceptions regarding women by reflecting on the road that led him to incarceration. After Buena Vista experienced what he described as a painful falling out with his fiancée, he responded with a three-week drug binge during which he robbed several businesses in order to purchase more drugs.

"When I realized how wrong I was, I called the cops on myself," he said. "I don't say this to evoke pity, but to show how I had categorized my fiancée as



Photo by Kara Union

Barton "Sky" Buena Vista spearheaded the Violence Against Women campaign

my property, how I could not accept her life choices."

"How lame is that?" Buena Vista lamented, laughing at himself. "This kind of thinking ruins lives. More everyday people than we realize think of each other as property."

Buena Vista formed the anti-violence group, which now has more than 70 inmates. Members meet in discussion groups to actively speak out against violence against women and counsel men about gender-related misconceptions, all without any sponsorship from outside of the prison.

"I'm interested in creating awareness in all staff and inmates in San Quentin so that we might come up to speed with what women have been going through for a long time," Buena Vista said.

Many of the inmates committed crimes against women and said they want to talk about

what they could do to "actively shift the paradigm of how women are viewed and understood," Buena Vista said.

"Violence against women is a global epidemic," said inmate Azrall Ford. "I'm passionate about stopping it. When I heard that Sky is doing this, I had to sign up. Our silence will never solve this important issue. Sky is giving us a voice within the walls of SQ. If we are serious about changing the way women are treated, we can heal the wounds we've caused against our sisters."

Several prisoners echoed this sentiment about false beliefs, forgiveness and reconciliation.

"My stepfather and biological father abused my mother, and my own case involved domestic violence," said Cleo Franks. "I believe a lot of women use their voice to defend themselves and a lot of men can't handle that, so they snap. I got involved

[with the Violence Against Women Awareness group] because I saw an opportunity to act on my concern for this human rights issue."

Inmate Alaren Frazier said that he grew up remembering how his mother's partner repeatedly abused her, and so he made a vow to never hit a woman. However, he said in his 20s, he got into a verbal conflict with his girlfriend, who became afraid during the argument and dialed 911.

"I was so mad at her. I had hate in my heart and snatched the cord out of the socket," Frazier said. "I was arrested and pleaded guilty to domestic violence. In my mind, I mentally murdered her."

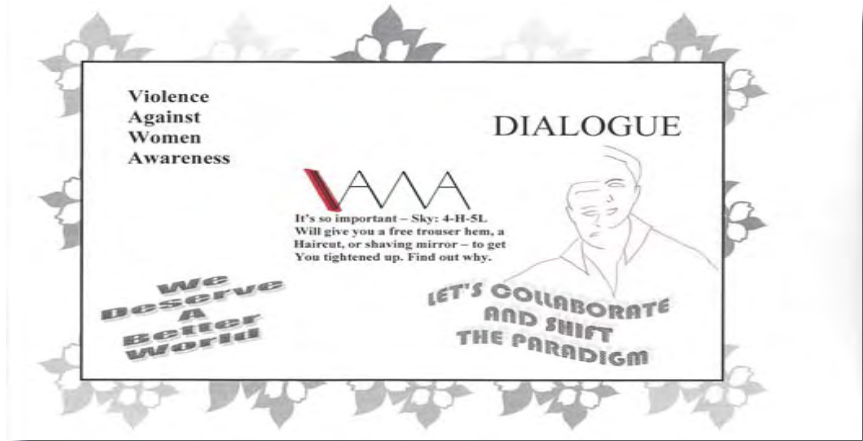
Frazier said after reminiscing about his vow and recognizing how hatred was ruining his life, he realized how wrong he was and joined the anti-violence campaign.

"Any type of assault against women is cowardly, inappropriate and shameful," Frazier said.

"Violence against women awareness means I'm not OK with putting hands on women," inmate David Mageo said. "Women deserve more respect than they are getting. If all goes well I see them running this country and taking over our households."

Buena Vista said he believes that by doing the little things in life, such as helping each other see themselves — through haircuts, shaving, providing mirrors and hemming trousers — it gets everyone to move beyond survival psychology in prison and abroad.

"We can attend to matters more mindful, creative and spiritual," Buena Vista said. "For the sake of the family and for the sake of stability, women of the Earth need to be given an equal say."



Anti-violence against women poster that was displayed on walls around prison grounds to bring further awareness



**1. Sacramento, CA** — David Long, 49, of Tehachapi, has been appointed warden at the California City Correctional Facility. Warden Long first served as a correctional officer at Chuckawalla Valley State Prison from 1989 to 1995. Later, he served in several positions at Ironwood State Prison from 1995 to 2014, including warden, chief deputy warden, correctional counselor and lieutenant. He was an associate warden at Mule Creek State Prison from 2006 to 2008 and a facility captain at the Adelanto Modified Community Correctional Complex from 2002 to 2006.

**2. Sacramento, CA** — San Quentin Death Row inmate Teofilo Medina Jr., 70, died of natural causes on Mar. 22, reports *The Associated Press*. Medina was sentenced to death in 1987 in Orange County and again in 1989 in Riverside County for killing three convenience store and gas station clerks.

**3. Oakland, CA** — A court case concerning solitary confinement gained attention when Supreme Court Justice Anthony Kennedy told wire services, “Solitary confinement literally drives men mad.” When referring to the penal system as a whole, he said, “In many respects, I think it’s broken.”

**4. Barry County, MO.** — Cecil Clayton, 74, was put to death by lethal injection after Gov. Jay Nixon denied a clemency request and the U.S. Supreme Court turned aside appeals claiming Clayton was mentally



incompetent, *The Associated Press* reports. Clayton was convicted of shooting a sheriff’s deputy.

**5. Phoenix, AZ** — A judge formally dismissed murder charges against Debra Milke on Mar. 23. Milke spent more than two decades on Death Row charged with her 4-year-old son’s killing. The case against Milke relied almost entirely on the work of a detective with a long history of misconduct, reports *The Associated Press*.

**6. Concord, N.H.** — Nearly three decades after being ordered to build a new women’s prison to remedy disparities in the programs and facilities between male and female inmates, construction bids for the new prison came in \$20 million more than the \$38 million approved by the state legislature. Subsequently, almost \$13 million more has been allocated to the project, pushing the prison’s opening to late 2017, according to *The Associated Press*.

**7. Waukegan, Ill.** — Juan Rivera, 42, who was cleared by DNA evidence of the 1992 rape and murder of an 11-year-old girl, was awarded \$20 million in a settlement, reports *Reuters*. Rivera, who now works at a medical research facility, told reporters that he plans to go to college and study business management and accounting.

**8. Cleveland, Ohio** — Ricky Jackson, 59, spent nearly four decades in prison after being convicted of aggravated murder

in the slaying of a businessman outside a corner store in Cleveland. The 1975 case relied on the testimony of a 12-year-old boy. A judge dismissed the charges after the boy said he lied and his recantation was corroborated in a hearing late last year. Jackson will receive more than \$1 million from the state for wrongful imprisonment, reports *The Associated Press*.

**9. Frankfort, Ky.** — The state legislature passed a bill designed to keep heroin dealers in prison longer and to give addicts clean needles in the wake of the state’s increase of overdose deaths, reports *The Associated Press*. Gov. Steve Beshear is expected to sign the bill.

**10. Tallahassee, Fla.** — Some state legislators are pushing a proposal that would strip Gov. Rick Scott of complete control of the prison system by creating an independent commission that could investigate allegations of corruption or problems, reports *The Associated Press*. The state’s prison system is one of the nation’s largest and houses roughly 100,000 inmates.

**11. Mitchellville, Iowa** — The cost of expanding and renovating the state women’s prison at Mitchellville has now reached a projected \$122 million, reports *The Associated Press*. Some lawmakers said they were surprised by the price tag, which was up from the initial estimate of \$68 million when the project was approved by former Gov. Chet Culver, *The Des Moines Register* reported.

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# Kings Leave Trailblazers Behind, 78-65, in Opener

By Marcus Henderson  
Journalism Guild Writer

The San Quentin Kings opened the season on a sunny Saturday by beating a new visiting team called the Trailblazers, 78-65.

The Kings' pressing defense and guard play by Oris "Pep" Williams helped keep the game under control.

Williams scored 18 points using his height and court vision to find the open man – mostly new shooting guard Marvin Cosby. He also scored 18.

"I felt good coming off my surgery and rehab," said Williams. "Everybody on both teams played hard."

Williams just recovered from an elbow injury that had him wearing a sling for weeks.

The Trailblazers bought their own one-man show with power forward Will Wheatley. He put on a clinic, scoring 29 points to lead all scorers. Wheatley dropped shots from in and outside the paint. The rest of the Trailblazers found themselves living and dying by the jump shot.

"Coming here is nothing like I thought. It's very competitive; I enjoyed this better than playing outside," said Wheatley.



Photo by Raphaelae Casales

San Quentin Kings Tim Long and Oris "Pep" Williams leading Tare "Cancun" Beltran on fastbreak

The first quarter showed both teams were a little rusty. They took a lot of outside jump shots while continuing to find the right half-court spacing offensively.

The Kings closed the first quarter with a 17-15 lead.

"This is a new team (Trailblazers); this is the first time we are playing together. We just have to find that right combina-

tion of players," said Trailblazer player/coach Ted Saltviet.

Both teams finally settled down in the second quarter. The Trailblazers had to get most of their points off of long rebounds and fast breaks.

The Kings ended the half with a 39-31 lead, generated by steals and blocked shots from center J. "Mailman" Ratchford.

"We did well. We need to rebound better. Our half-court defense is good, but our transitional defense needs work," said Kings assistant coach Ishmael Freelon of the March 21 contest.

The Kings came out fast-breaking and running in the second half. Kings guard Tare "Cancun" Beltran's speed broke down the Trailblazers' defense.

He spun in the lane, dropping lay-up after lay-up.

The Kings racked up a 57-40 point lead, which promoted a Trailblazers time out call. Saltviet came off the bench and immediately drained a three-point shot that started an 8-1 Trailblazers run. They ended the third quarter down 10 points.

Ten points was the closest the Trailblazers would get. The Kings' Demond Lewis' shots started dropping and Thad Fleeton's mid-range game came to life. Both players struggled in the first half, but produced when it counted, stopping the Trailblazers' comeback.

The Kings bench only managed to score 20 points overall, but the team appeared well balanced and talented.

The Trailblazers will be back after shaking off the first game jitters.

"It takes a while to get used to playing here; everybody is watching you, but everybody is really nice," said Trailblazer guard Aiden, referring to a gallery of about 20 inmates.

Kings backup center, T. "Detroit" Long added, "I really enjoy playing the outside teams; it helps to demonstrate to the community that we are really people."

## 17 New Players Picked for S.Q. Giants and A's

Spring training brought out 50 inmates to try out for 17 spots on both the San Quentin Giants and A's teams.

The tryouts were held on the heels of Rugger Ardizoia Day, the former New York Yankee who visited and pitched in San Quentin back in 1952 and just turned 95 years old.

The tryouts lasted for two weeks and the best players entered into a draft.

The Giants received most of the draft picks to fill out their roster due to losing a lot of players recently.

"Spring training helps you get in shape for game day," said Anthony "Saadiq" Redwood. He was drafted by the A's for an infield position.

"I enjoy playing first base because of my age. The A's are a solid team and we have camara-

derie," added Redwood.

Volunteers overseeing spring training were Commissioner Elliot Smith, Giants manager Mike Deeble and A's manager Steve Reichardt.

"I'd like to thank Lt. Sam Robinson (sponsor) for bringing us in," said Reichardt. "I think everybody is ready for opening day April 18."

Players fielded fly balls hit by A's head coach, John "Yahya" Parratt. He hit balls to right field, centerfield and left to check the players' fielding techniques.

Then the players were brought in for batting practice and base running. Any errors by a player resulted in running extra laps or pushups.

"We try the players' abilities to field the ball. Can they make the proper decisions on the throw? Can they run the

bases?" said Isaiah "Raheem" Thompson-Bonilla. "We check their baseball IQ and we want to see if they are coachable."

Baseball IQ drills consisted of the field captain calling out scenarios. For example, with men on first and third base, where should the ball be thrown to turn a double play?

Then the players are trained on how to play long and short balls. Long ball is how to make plays off outfield hits and short ball is how to make plays off bunts and infield hits.

"We were looking for guys who work hard and we found four new additions to our team," said Thompson-Bonilla.

"We have solid team chemistry," said Reichardt. "The core of the team is returning – team captain Cleo Cloman, third baseman Royce Rose, second

baseman Anthony "T-Tone" Denard and Thompson-Bonilla might be returning as pitcher; he is hurt but I'm optimistic. John Windham is also coming off of surgery, so we might just have him as the designated hitter and back catcher – he plays everything."

Reichardt said his pitching lineup is Chris Marshall, the longest player on the A's at five years, Gary Townes and Carlyle "Otter" Blake.

The whole team reminds me of the Philadelphia A's of the 1900s; they are that good, said Reichardt.

Denard, known as the East Bay Legend, was drafted by two pro teams – the Arizona Diamondbacks and the Minnesota Twins.

"Bad choices and being hard-headed cost me an opportunity,

but I've been playing this game since I was 2 years old," said Denard. "This is my getaway tool. I'm in prison, but when I'm playing, I'm free. This team reminds me of family – we are close-knit."

Marshall added, "These are my bros. I'm out here for them. We support each other on and off the field. This game teaches you ethics. The hardships, discipline and constant work ethic translates into your life. You have to follow rules, you have to follow instructions and you have to follow through."

"Baseball is a journey of life in itself. There are lessons of social ethics, morals and education to learn. 'It's a game,' as Hall of Famer Yogi Berra said, 'that is 90 percent mental and the rest is physical,'" said coach Parratt.

–By Marcus Henderson

## Graced Out Tournament Draws Packed House

The third annual Graced Out Ministry Four-on-Four Basketball Tournament had the San Quentin Gym packed.

The team of Harry "ATL" Smith, Donte Smith, Montrell Vines, Marvin Cosby and Derrick Cartwright took first place, winning 25-24.

"I just do what I do, but really it's a team thing," said D. Smith, the game MVP.

Over 45 participated to form eight teams, which consisted of four players and one reserve.

The winner was the first team to score 15 points, going by ones from inside the arc and two from outside the three-point line. The championship final game was the first team to score 25 points.

D. Smith set the stage early by dominating the boards and grabbing defensive rebounds. He led his team in rebounding and scored 9 points. H. Smith

added 7, Vines, 4, Cosby, 2 and Cartwright, 3.

H. Smith gave a LeBron James performance by taking over scoring the final points, using his strength and speed to power his way to the basket.

"First I want to give praise to my Lord and savior Jesus Christ. I was happy just to be a part of this outing for the youth. I thank the Graced Out Youth leadership," said H. Smith. Then he shouted, "Hey mom, I love you!"

The championship did not come easy. The battle-tested team of Joshua Burton, Larry Jones, Edward Moss, Keith Lolis and Eric Curtis fought their way back into the game. After being down 14-5, they went on a 6-0 run off the sharp shooting of Jones.

They closed the gap 14-11, with a series of fouls and good

defense. They took the lead at 21-19.

Curtis put in a hook shot, and Jones dropped a midrange jumper for a 24-23 lead at game point.

Jones rushed his next shot and a disputed out-of-bounds call left the ball in Vines' wide-open hands. He sank the two-pointer jumper for the win on March 28.

"I enjoyed the tournament; I can't lie, "ATL" abused me. I know I at least got him by 20 years," said Curtis.

The scariest play of the tournament came when Curtis "Wall Street" Carroll bumped heads with teammate Vernon Britten when both went for a rebound in the semi-finals.

The collision laid both teammates out. Carroll was taken away on a stretcher. He returned later after being diagnosed with

a concussion.

"I thank everybody for being concerned about me," said Carroll.

Jones took Carroll's place in the semi-final game, leading a stunning comeback win after being down 14-6.

The win sent them into the finals. Carroll and Britten still received their second prize with the rest of the team.

The third place winners were J. Brown, Derrick Holloway, Tim Thomas, W. Jackson and reserve Reginald Hola.

Earlier in the tournament, their team won a close game, 15-14, to reach the semi-finals.

"It wasn't just about the competition; we wanted to show our compassion, strength and humbleness as men," said Holloway.

Fanon Figgers of the youth ministry added, "We wanted to show unity and fellowship from

the church to everybody – to let them know this is not just a Sunday thing."

The tournament ended with a crowd raffle. James Metters presented the winner with a new Bible and toiletries.

All prizes were donated by the Graced Out Youth Ministry and the Garden Chapel.

Youth ministry coordinators were Ferrari Moody, Carl Saldano, Dwight Kennedy, Antoine Watie and Antwan Williams.

"This was beautiful – to get the youth involved, to introduce Christ into their lives," said Saldano. "We want to get the youth involve in positive things. San Quentin is a unique environment to utilize these programs. We help the youth with their educational needs as well. There is life after this, and we want them to be better."

–By Marcus Henderson



# Stanford Students Capture Runners on Film

By **Rahsaan Thomas**  
Sports Editor

The positive impact of competitive running on prisoners was filmed by a Stanford University student trying to get his master's degree.

"You start running slow and something magical happens. Everything gets easier, stamina improves and speed picks up," Andrew Gazzeny, 47, told the visitors.

The documentary will be called *Laps*, said R.J. Lozada, 34, who is mastering in Fine Arts and Documentary Film Making.

"It feels good to get the exposure because it shows that we are doing something positive with our lives, despite our circumstances," said club member Bernard "Raheem" Ballard, 41.

"Thank you for helping me finish school," Lozada, 34, told the runners. "I believe in you guys."

Lozada was interested in doing a documentary on prisoners running a marathon because he was a runner himself.

"I had a passion for running. I ran a total of eight marathons, but don't do it much anymore," said Lozada.

The camera's eye caught top club runners like Lorinzo Hopson, Eddie Herena , Carlos Ramirez, Larry Ford, Steve Reitz, Glen Mason and Morceli Abdel Kader zipping around



Photo by Sam Heames

1000 Mile Club members running on San Quentin's Lower Yard

the track.

Ramirez took off with a huge lead, completing three miles in 21 minutes. Then Herena picked up his pace and showed him who the club record holder is. By the sixth mile, Herena took the lead for good. He completed 10.25 miles in 1:10:30. Ramirez completed 9.75. Ford and Reitz followed tied at 9.25 miles. Glen Mason completed 9 and Hopson 8.75.

The crew also filmed the last San Quentin race for Marlon

Beason and Abel Armengol.

After serving 10 years for robbery, Beason was released on parole. Armengol also paroled a few days later.

Beason, who is 289 pounds, found the will and determination to complete long distance runs. He completed 5.75 miles in the allotted time. Armengol completed 7.5 miles, tied with Jonathan Chiu.

Beason and Armengol said running helped them serve their prison time.

"It was a way of escape. I would get lost in the focus of breathing and the music coming through my headphones," said Beason.

"I'm glad I was running in the club because it was a stress release," said Armengol. "It helped me think about the right thing. It's a good benefit. The club helps you with running shoes and being part of a team."

Once all the runners completed the race, Lozada inter-

viewed them. He asked questions like, "What does time mean to you? What do you want the world to know about you? What do you think about when you're running? What's your favorite running memory?"

Answers included: "Time allows me to reflect and to heal," said Ballard.

"I wasted a lot of time. I'm trying to make up for that by going to school," said Eddie Deweaver.

"Coming to prison is a waste of time unless you take advantage and do all the things you didn't do before— go to college, learn a trade," said Gazzeny. "The thought of wasted time is painful. Every day that goes by is something you can't get back."

"I concentrate on what I'm doing and coming in first place when I run," said Ramirez.

"My favorite running memory was my worst running experience. We ran a race in the rain, after waiting two hours for it to begin. My socks were wet," said Mike Keeeyes.

Lozada came in with fellow Stanford students Kristine Stolkakis, 26, Tyler Trumbo, 29, and Max Good, 36, as his film crew on Feb. 13. They had two video cameras and boom mikes.

His classmates are also majoring in Documentary Film Making. Stolkakis said she is working on one about Mormon women fighting to be priests.

# Athlete Windham Dominates Football Clinic

By **Marcus Henderson**  
Journalism Guild Writer

The San Quentin Punt, Pass, and Agility Competition found John "Dunnie" Windham dominating most of the events on that sunny day.

Windham took first place in the 60-yard dash and the distance throwing with a whopping 70-yard toss. He took second place in the speed and agility contest and the accuracy-passing event.

"I'm just glad to participate; my focus is a little off because I'm rehearsing my lines for an upcoming Shakespeare's 'Macbeth' play," said Windham.

With brains and brawn, Windham showed he has more than athletic prowess.

D. Martinez took first place in the speed and agility contest with a time of 17:61.

The speed and agility consisted of a 20-yard dash zigzagging around four standing orange cones. The competitor sprints to the section of cones, shuffles left and right, high stepping through them. Then one of the officials pitched a football to the runner for the final yards.

Windham posted a time of 17:91, but the one who seemed to have the most fun was Miguel Galvan. He came in last at 20:14.

"I like the competition. I just tried to set the pace. Since I was the first to run, everyone knew what time to beat," said Galvan.

"It feels great. I use to run track when I was younger," added Martinez.

George Gonzalez took first place in the punting competition with a 55-yard boot.

Gonzalez showed good form in all his kicks.

"This is a great experience. I've been playing soccer. That gave me the experience on how to kick the ball," said Gonzalez.

Nico Vargas came in second with a punt of 45 yards. "I'm only here because I have to be here," Vargas joked, quoting Marshawn Lynch of the Seattle Seahawks, who is one of Vargas' favorite players.

Charles "Pookie" Sylvester won the accuracy-passing contest with 185 points for both rounds.

The accuracy passing consisted of throwing six balls at four targets for points. Five points

were given for short targets, 15 points for the middle of the field targets, 25 points for each sideline and a 40-point bonus for the deep-ball target.

Sylvester racked up his points by hitting both sidelines passes, one center field pass and two bonus passes.

The rest of the competition focused on the deep ball for the bonus, but mainly they over threw the target.

Windham came in second with 180 points, and Shaheed put up 160 points for third place. They both did well in the first round but could not hit their targets in the second.

"It shows my focus is getting right," said Sylvester about his performance. "I thank everybody for letting me participate in this."

Windham took the distance throwing with a 55-yard bomb from his knees.

"Is he really going to throw from his knees?" asked Gonzalez.

That was his first throw. Windham launched a 70-yarder standing.

Shaheed came in second place with a 55-yard throw.

The competition closed with the 60-yard dash with all competitors taking part.

Windham cruised to first place, so all eyes were on who would come in second and third.

Frank Hicks took second place even after getting tangled with another runner halfway through the race.

"I got caught up with Martinez. I could have run a little



Photo by Sam Heames

John "Dunnie" Windham also competes in softball

easier, but I did regroup," said Hicks.

D. Zayd Nickolson, who came in third, added, "It was a blessing to see diverse participation. I hope to see more of that."

As the events proceeded, a small group of about 20 inmates gathered to watch the competition.

There was a low turnout for the competition because March 27 was also Last Mile's Demo Day.

"It was a fun day. Not many turned out, but we had new people show up, so it was a success," said Madden Flag Football League coordinator Chris Markham. "I saw a lot of speed out there, in case they want to show up and tryout for All-Madden."

# Warriors Reloaded for 2015

The San Quentin Warriors were put through hell to get them ready for this season.

The first week of practices, called Hell Week by Warriors coach Daniel Wright, didn't involve the use of a basketball. While the basketball sat unused in the Lower Yard's rec-shack, Wright had his players run, and run and run.

"They ran two miles, 15 suicides, 20 sprints, another lap, 10 more sprints up the court and 10 times back pedaling, and two more suicides," said Wright.

"This is definitely a wind and endurance check," said new recruit Julio Saca. "I'm grateful to be part of the team and to grow

with them."

"It's tough; (Wright) ain't playing," said new recruit Miguel Sifuentes.

All the Warriors, new and old, tough out the drills in anticipation of the upcoming season.

"It will be an honor to play for the elite Warriors," said John Wang.

"We are trying to fulfill our hoop dreams," said Sifuentes. "I'm thankful the Christian Sports Ministry are giving us this opportunity."

This years 2015 Warriors are: New recruits:

D. "Frog" DeWitt, Tommie Nellon, Saca, Sifuentes and

Wang.

And returning Warriors: Allan McIntosh, Anthony Ammons, Harry "ATL" Smith, Donte Smith, Brad Shells, Montrell Vines, DuPriest Brown and Rafael Cuevas.

Greg Eskridge is an alternate, along with a surprise player.

"If my players don't bring it this year, I'm telling the sports editor to suit up," said Wright.

This year, Joshua Burton is a guard coach and Paul Oliver is the big man coach.

"Making the Warriors feels good. It's something I'll remember for the rest of my life," said Nellon.

—By **Rahsaan Thomas**



# Prisoners Expresses Gratitude on Mother's Day



File photo

Nguyet “Lisa” Ngo, Ke Lam’s mom



File photo

Annie Benson, Antoine’s mom



File photo

Martha Winfrey, Tommy’s mom



File photo

Maria, Lucilla and Lucy Quezada, Miguel’s mom and sisters (1980)



File photo

Raynna Bunyou and Mony Yai, Phoeun’s sister and mom

In honor of Mother’s Day, Asked on the Line went in search of how mainliners feel about mom. Men were asked what they liked most about their mothers or to express what their mothers mean to them.

Lenny Rideout: The one thing I like the most about my mom is the way she nourished her kids all by herself, her hustle and bustle to provide for her family without my dad being there.

Eddie Herena: The one thing I love most about my mom is her compassion.

Somdeng Danny Thongsy: The best thing I love about my mom, the only words that can describe her, is unconditional love.

Carlos Flores: The one thing I love most about my mother is her undying devotion to me.

Sam Hearnes: The one thing I love most about my mom is her resilience. I love you forever, mom.

Aaron Taylor: The one thing I like most about my mother would be how the dynamics of our relationship has evolved. She is still teaching me.

Mesro Coles-El: I love my mother’s wisdom. Her wisdom has guided me through so much. If I would have listened to her, I wouldn’t be here.

Raymond Bodine: She was able to reconcile people in a social setting better than anybody I know. Mom, pray for the church in the 21<sup>st</sup> century, which suffers from such disunity.

Quinton Walker: She is a people person; in other words, she loves people. Mom, I hope to see you soon. You’re my favorite girl.

John Wang: My parents have sacrificed so much for me. Their persevering spirit still drives me today.

Chris Marshall Sr.: Adjua, I love you so much mom, it’s not even funny. You bring joy to me, even in here. I love you, baby.

Alexei Ruiz: My mother is my drive, my motivation, my energy source. My mother exemplifies the best compassion and loving kindness. Above all, my mother is an angel.

Syyen Hong: Mom, I will always be thankful for everything that you did. I thank God you

are my mom.

Kim “Al-Amin” McAdoo: My mother is the lifeline of my existence. She is truly the epitome of what a woman represents: compassion, love and mercy. Her essence is irreplaceable.

Pedro Espinal: Madre significa la dadora de vida que Dios otorgo el don para reproducir. Mi madre significa que ella tiene la habilidad de amar incondicionalmente.

Juan Arballo: My mother is the foundation of my values. She modeled for me strength, integrity, resilience, truth and sacrifice, all enveloped in her never-ending unconditional love.

Orlando Harris: She is my strength. She is my heart. Her love is unconditional and never failing. She’s beautiful. She’s a queen. She’s my mom.

Daniel Garcia: Mom, the best and most beautiful things in the world cannot be seen or even touched. They must be felt within the heart.

Nghiep Ke Lam: My mom is my teacher of empathy, compassion, patience and perseverance.

I love her in all her imperfection because I see so much of myself.

Chris Scull: My mom used to walk me to school, made sure I had enough to eat, and called me home when the streetlights came on. Mom always knew what was best for me.

Tommy Winfrey: The word mom conjures up the thought of love for me. Mom is the force that gives me life and hope. Without Mom, I would be nowhere.

Antoine Brown: This is the woman that gave me life: kind, caring, loving and unique, strong, mindful, beautiful with a presence that displays peace, my first teacher and mentor. You have guided me towards humility and gratefulness and you will always be my Black queen.

Miguel Quezada: Feliz Dia de Las Madres a mi querida madre, Lucilla, y a mis hermanas Lucy y Maria. De parte de su hijo y hermano.

Mark A. Barger: My mom’s name is Barbara. What I love most about her is her compassion for others. I am deeply hon-

ored to be her son.

Luis Figueras: What I love the most about my mom is that she is a wonderful mother, grandmother and great-grandmother. No matter what, I know that she is with me through thick and thin.

Mr. Nica: With lots of love, I remember my mother’s greatest quality: She always had great love and respect for Jehovah God and she imbedded the same quality in her children.

Mr. Lyn: Mom, I love you more than life. You are in my heart forever. Thank you for always being there. I love you, heart and soul.

Angelo Falcone: No, no hay que llorar, porque la vida es un carnaval...Kimbara-kimbara kimakim bam-ba, Kimbara-kimbara kimakim bam-ba. ¡Azucar!

Phoeun You: Mom, I brought you a lifetime of heartaches. To show you how sorry I am, I’m dedicating my life to let you know that you are appreciated and valued. Raynna, my sister, although you are no longer here with us. I promise to live a fulfilling life in your honor.

# Prisoner Describes Spiritual Journey to His Mother

By Simon

“Mr. Simon wrote a heartfelt story that everyone could relate to regarding his mother,” said Kathleen Jackson, facilitator of the San Quentin Christian Creative Writing Class.

“He’s had his ups and downs and has had to make some life-changing decisions for himself,” she said.

“When he was first introduced to the Lord, he was not with it, but now you can’t run him off from God. Simon still falls down at times, but today he knows how to get back up and back in line and in fellowship with his Christian brothers, sisters, and most importantly, the Lord.”

Here’s some of what Simon wrote about his mother:

I was at a very young age when my parents divorced. I believe I was around 4 or 5 years old; I don’t know for sure. I am the youngest and only boy in my family, which consists of my

mom, two sisters, and me.

There was never a male figure in our household; my dad was in and out of my life. I learned a few things from him but nothing close to what I learned from my mom.

Mama always showed and taught us respect, respect for ourselves and toward others. She taught us to be truthful and willing to extend a helping hand, looking for nothing in return but to just do it because it’s the right thing to do.

She also taught us to believe there is a God, but we were not taught how to believe in God. We did not read the Bible growing up nor did we understand or talk about God’s word, will, and ways. We would use all these clichés: ‘God don’t like ugly,’ ‘God’s going to punish for doing wrong,’ ‘God’s going to strike you down for one reason or another.’...all those mean and evil things God would do. But I just did not know any better, but I can assure you we do today.

Growing up, I did not know we were poverty-stricken, if we were, because of our mom’s love and sacrifices. I did not even know what poverty was until I moved out and left home. That is also the time I began to understand my mom is a real model for what a mom is, not just a mother but a real and genuine mom.

She never turned her back on any of her kids, even when we were deep down in our drug addiction, which all three of us, at the same time, were for many years. As each of us evolved out of those trenches at separate times, my mom came to trust and believe in us once again.

As we were growing up, she taught us morals and values to carry us through life, and she knew even in our addictions that we did not forget them.

A mom who raises her child knows her child better than anyone else on God’s green earth. I can admit that my mom is far from perfect, but she is the

perfect mom to me. I am truly grateful God has always shadowed over her.

That same house I was raised in is like a little piece of heaven

to me: always clean, warm, inviting, and full of love because of the one who resides in it and the Spirit watching over her and home.



Photo by Sam Hearnes

Simon inside the Protestant Chapel where he spent most of his time



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Photo by Sam Hearn

Heiwa Taiko Drummers performing a song to represent peace for the audience

## Day of Peace Event 'Like a Day in the Park'

By Juan Haines  
Managing Editor

San Quentin State Prison held its annual Day of Peace celebra-

tion on April 25. "This is like a day in the park!" folk singer Audrey Auld said to the prisoners, community volunteers and custody staff mingling on the

prison's Lower Yard.

Things were different in 2006 when the Lower Yard was the

See *Day of on Page 12*

## Bryan Stevenson Challenges a Broken System

By Kevin D. Sawyer  
Journalism Guild Chairman

On a quiet April evening inmates gathered in San Quentin's Protestant Chapel to hear attorney Bryan Stevenson speak.

About 120 inmates from Paten College's student list accepted an invitation to listen to Stevenson, a champion for the voiceless — those condemned to death, afflicted by poverty, inadequate education and incarceration, and as a result, according to Stevenson, under-represented in the United States and exploited by the criminal justice system.

"I recognized that I had been struggling my whole life with the question of how and why people are judged unfairly," Stevenson says in his new book, *Just Mercy: A Story of Justice and Redemption*. However, in



File Photo

Bryan Stevenson

no way did he promote his book at this event.

Instead, Stevenson discussed issues cited in his book, such as

See *Stevenson on Page 4*

## Pelican Bay Instructors Work Around Hurdles To Educate Inmates

By Dana Simas  
CDCR PIO

Pelican Bay State Prison (PBSP) is a level four facility reserved for the most serious of California's offenders. Half of the prison houses maximum-security inmates in a general population setting. The other half of the prison holds inmates in segregation units such as the Security Housing Unit (SHU)

or Administrative Segregation Unit (ASU) designed for violent inmates and prison gang members and leaders. None of this, however, means the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation (CDCR) isn't working to improve the lives of the inmates in one of California's most notorious prisons.

The Tsunami Adult School

See *Pelican Bay on Page 9*

## Learning How to Forgive Must Precede Healing

By Rahsaan Thomas  
Staff Writer

Learning to forgive the murderer of a loved one is hard but necessary in order to heal and

move forward, the visitors and prisoners who spoke at *The Courage to Reconcile* Restorative Justice Symposium in San Quentin's Catholic Chapel agreed.

"After losing three family members, I want the hurt to stop," said guest speaker Mattie Scott. "I'm standing on the strength of other survivors, and I know that this is a calling on my life — to let the world know that people behind bars are victims too. We want them to become survivors so we can stop the cycle of violence."

Scott and her sister, Elizabeth Torres, have lost sons to gun violence. Scott's son was killed acting as a peacemaker.

On July 17, 1996, he took four bullets meant for a friend who stole the killer's jewelry. His murderer walked because no



File Photo

Mattie Scott

See *Forgiveness on Page 10*



Photo by Dana Simas

Outside road and perimeter of Pelican Bay State Prison

## Sentencing a 13-Year-Old to Life in Prison

Nationwide, more than 2,200 juveniles under the age of 18 are serving life sentences—dozens were 13-14 at the time of their offense, according to a report by Equal Justice Initiative (EJI), a non-profit legal-assistance organization founded by Bryan Stevenson.

Michael "Little B" Lewis, at age 13, was labeled a super predator by a sociologist and called a cold-blooded thug by prosecutors, *WSB-TV Atlanta*



File Photo

Michael "Little B" Lewis

reported.

According to *WSB-TV*, Lewis walked up to a parked car at an Atlanta convenience store in 1997 and shot Darrell Woods, a stranger, in front of his two sons.

Lewis has spent more continuous time incarcerated (he's now in a supermax facility designed for death row inmates) "than any person starting his sentence as a

See *13-year old on Page 5*



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Prisoners United in the Craft of Journalism  
In collaboration with students from the



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Please use the following criteria when submitting:

- Limit your articles to no more than 350 words.
- Know that articles will be edited for content and length.
- The newspaper is not a medium to file grievances. (For that, use the prison appeals process.) We encourage submitting articles that are newsworthy and encompass issues that will have an impact on the prison populace.
- Please do not use offensive language in your submissions.
- Poems and art work (cartoons and drawings) are welcomed.
- Letters to the editor should be short and to the point.

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Members of SQUIRES Share  
Their Knowledge and Life Choices  
With Students and Coaches

By Rahsaan Thomas  
Sports Editor

Student athletes and coaches from the University of California, Berkeley, and McClymonds High School discussed and experienced the consequences of bad decisions during a visit to San Quentin State Prison as part of the SQUIRES program.

"This is a tremendous learning experience for the kids and the staff as well. A split second can have you in (prison) blues," said Cuonzo Martin, Cal Bears head basketball coach.

Colin Fry, Bears secondary coach, said, "The biggest thing was the visual experience of seeing the result of a bad decision. You always hear, 'Make the right decision.' It's big to hear everybody's stories and see the consequences of the wrong decision."

Bears football player Matt Cochran commented, "Seeing Condemned Row was powerful. Everybody knows they are going to die, but when you put a date on it and see that door..."

SQUIRES is a program in which inmates share their stories with at-risk youth that visit. It stands for San Quentin Utilization of Inmate Resources, Experiences and Studies. The prisoners engage the youth in confidential circle talks and one-on-one discussions throughout the day.

"We don't scare straight; we communicate," said inmate Arnulfo Garcia.

"I've been part of circles at Cal but they aren't as deep as this," said Daniel "Noah" Westerfield, a Cal Berkeley football player. He said he related more to the SQUIRES participants.

Marco Harris Cal assistant coach said, "They use their stories to keep youth out of trouble."

"This is valuable," said Bears guard Stephen Domingo. "Ya'll kept it 100. That's something I can't re-create and it definitely helped."

The inmates' candor about the mistakes they made has a powerful impact. A 14-year-old football player started the day quietly sitting with his head down and arms folded. By days end, he was talkative, held his head up and had uncrossed his arms.

"Psychologists who come in here say it takes forever [outside] to get the kids to open up – but it's amazing how something about our stories gives kids permission to open up about themselves," said SQUIRES member Chris Schuhmacher.

Kevin "KP" Parker has been bringing Cal students in for about nine years. He's the school's player personnel director.

"Chuck Hammon invited me in and it changed my life. The way you men in blue are able to pull things out of young men. Bringing in young men lets me give students the tools to deal with tough situations," said Parker.

"I think it makes a huge difference in the lives of players. It makes them conscious when they are out there drinking," he added. "I'm trying to bring every human being outside these walls in here because it is powerful."

"I came last year and really enjoyed it," said Tony Mekari, a Bears tackle. "It brought me down to earth."

It was "eye-opening," said Roger Moute, a Bears small forward. "It makes me count my blessings and lets me know I have to live my life right – I don't want to be here. Also, I have to try and help people."

SQUIRES isn't easy.

"It's challenging getting to the core issues. Sometimes it's emotionally draining," said SQUIRES member Eddie Pryor.

The day ended with a quote from an anonymous source by SQUIRES member David Monroe, "The only people to get even with are those who have helped you."

Hours after the May 9 visit, Martin was on the *After the Game* show dissecting the Warriors vs. Grizzlies NBA playoff game. He mentioned his visit inside San Quentin was an eye-opening experience and how one bad decision can change your whole life in seconds.



Photo By Sam Hearn

Kevin "KP" Parker



Photo by Raphaelae Casale

Cal Berkeley Students and young men inside of S.Q.'s Dining Hall



# How Minority Police Officers Deal With Racism

*‘I think about how I would be treated if I wasn’t wearing the uniform’*

**By Lee Jasparr**  
**Journalism Guild Writer**

Minority police officers say they are as upset about racism as anyone, and they struggle to change the culture in their communities.

“Racism is alive and well in this country,” Sgt. Yulanda Williams, a 25-year Black police veteran in San Francisco, told the San Francisco Chronicle.

“I certainly understand that there are injustices within the criminal justice system, but we’re all being condemned,” said Capt. Bisa French, a Black and Latina woman of the Richmond Police Department. “Some of our officers feel like they are out there doing the right thing on a daily basis, but they are getting judged for the actions of the few who do wrong.”

Williams, who leads Officers for Justice, an organization representing San Francisco police of color, says she has seen racism on and off the job. She was quoted in the Chronicle.

Her grandson, who is bi-racial, was the target of an alleged hate crime when some of his high school classmates spread cotton balls on his lawn.

“I was outraged,” said Williams, “but I was also glad that

I was a police officer. If I was calling as a regular citizen, I don’t know if it would have made the difference.”

“We, as police officers, took this job because we wanted to make a difference. We wanted to take control of the policing in our communities,” she said.



Capt. Bisa French holding an award from the Richmond Police Department

File Photo

chained themselves to the entrances of Oakland’s police headquarters. Oakland Police Lt. LeRonne Armstrong said he was behind a line of officers when demonstrators began to call him names and suggest he take off his uniform and join them.

“We don’t sleep in our uniforms at night. We’re all human.”

“It’s a conflicting situation,” said French. “They (Black) officers are part of these segments of the community, too. I think about how I would be treated if I wasn’t wearing the uniform.”

In December, protesters

“Inclusiveness is the greatest thing we need right now,” said Armstrong of those who suggest that it is not a good thing to have African-Americans as part of law enforcement

Kenton Rainey, a Black man, took the job of BART police chief in 2010, a year after a White transit officer fatally shot Black Oscar Grant on a station platform in Oakland.

Rainey talked to Kale Williams of the Chronicle about the killing of Michael Brown in Ferguson, Mo., and Tamir Rice, a Black 12-year-old boy who was shot by a White Cleveland officer, who reported mistaking a toy gun for the real thing.

Flawed tactics and a lack of proper training were at least partly to blame, said Rainey. “Whether I’m stopping someone for a bank robbery or jaywalking, you never do it from the seat of your car,” he said. “These were bad tactics, and for us as leaders not to say that? Shame on us.”

“I’ve worked in six departments in three states and everyone, from chiefs to beat officers, says they want community policing. But few of them want to actually teach officers how to be culturally competent in all segments of the community.” Rainey concluded.

## Study Shows That Discipline Based on Race, Gender and Orientation Place Students at Risk

**By John Lam**  
**Journalism Guild Writer**

School discipline by race, gender and sexual orientation have placed large numbers of students at risk for short- and long-term negative outcomes.

The dividing lines of racial inequalities can be seen in the news media on a regular basis with the deaths of Trayvon Martin, Eric Garner, Michael Brown and Tamir Rice. These events remind the public that differing views about racial inequality can have deadly consequences.

The negative consequences of unequal punishment can be extreme. In a study conducted by the Discipline Disparities Research-to-Practice Collaborative, researchers found that students being transferred more often to different schools

through suspensions and expulsions correlates with the number of students “vanish[ing] from graduation stages and fill[ing] the pipeline to prison.”

Racial disparities in punishment are not new. They are the result of entrenched inequalities in the history of America.

“The ravages of slavery and Jim Crow, forced migration, and policies that enforced unequal treatment placed African Americans and most people of color at an economic and social disadvantage,” the report found.

R.M. Blank from *American Economic Review* said, “For nearly a century after the Civil War, laws and practices enforcing inferior schools for Blacks, Native Americans, Asians, and Mexican Americans and significantly better educational access, housing and jobs for

Whites led to economic and social cumulative advantage for Whites and growing disadvantage for people of color.”

Despite the pathway created by the landmark decision of Brown vs. Board of Education on desegregating schools, governmental policies and actions subsequently have led to reinforced segregation of schools through housing policies.

The Children’s Defense Fund noted that “African American and Hispanic students are three times as likely as White students to be born into poverty, have less adequate access to health care, and tend to attend schools with adequate physical facilities, and less highly qualified and trained teachers.”

Governmental policies that create racial disparities in education are compounded by the presence of police officers

at predominantly minority schools who punish these students more harshly.

“Research also shows that the increased presence of ‘school resource officers’ in such stressed, low-resource settings often increases the likelihood that young Black people are not just suspended, but ejected into the justice system through school arrest, particularly for subjective offenses such as disorderly conduct,” the *Journal of Criminal Justice* states.

The report also found that racial issues will be compounded when school officials ignore the issue of race.

“A colorblind perspective suggests that maybe we shouldn’t talk about it – that discussions about race are extraneous, or that those seeking to discuss race in, e.g., school discipline are ‘playing the race card,’” the report states.

Professor of law Neil Gotanda suggests that the “color blind stance is self-contradictory.” “The assertion that one does not ‘see color’ actually requires considering race in society before rejecting its relevance.”

In sum, as Bryan Stevenson, director of Equal Justice Initiative said, “In order to fix a problem, we must get proximate with the issue, we have to acknowledge the problem exists.”

The study concludes with seven recommendations for educators to reduce racial discipline disparities by using alternatives other than suspension and expulsion as primary forms of punishment. Those recommendations follow:

- Encourage educators to

Form supportive relationships to improve interactions between teachers and students.

- Engage in academic rigor by giving engaging instructions, combined with support for meeting goals and expectations with students.

- Informing educators of culturally relevant and responsive instructions for creating safe and respectful classrooms.

- Maintaining bias-free classrooms and respectful school environments by adhering to a uniform standard of treatment of all students.

- Use new approaches to discipline by offering restorative practice training to all staff in problem solving and in identifying contributors to conflict as a way of reducing the discipline gap.

- Recognizing student and family voices, research shows that discipline benefits greatly by reaching out to parents and students to understand their concerns.

- Lastly, reintegrating students after conflict or after long-term absences due to suspension, expulsion or detention by involving collaboration of all stakeholders in the community, reducing the likelihood of repeated offenses.

The report was conducted by Prudence L. Carter, Ph.D. professor of Sociology at Stanford; Russell J. Skiba, Ph.D. Professor of Psychology at Indiana University; Mariella I. Arrendondo, Ph.D. Associate director of the Equity Project; Mica Pollock, Ph.D. Professor of Educational Studies at University of California, San Diego.

## FBI Admits Experts Gave False Testimony Against Defendants Who Were Executed

The U.S. Justice Department and the FBI have acknowledged that almost all of the experts in the FBI forensic unit dedicated to microscopic hair comparison gave false testimony against defendants prior to 2000, according to *The Washington Post*.

### EVIDENCE

The National Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers and the Innocence Project found that “26 of the 28 examiners in the FBI’s microscopic hair comparison unit overstated evi-

dence in more than 95 percent of 268 trials” that have been examined. The cases include those of 32 defendants sentenced to death. Of those, 14 have been executed or died in prison, *The Washington Post* reported.

“Federal authorities launched the investigation in 2012 after *The Post* reported that flawed forensic hair matches might have led to the convictions of hundreds of potentially innocent people since at least the 1970s, typically for murder, rape and other violent crimes nationwide,” stated an article by *The*

*Associated Press*.

The study conducted by the NACDL found that when FBI experts testified about a “near-certainty of ‘matches’” their testimony instead was based on incomplete or misleading statistics drawn from their casework.

### INVESTIGATION

The FBI and the Justice Department issued a joint statement vowing to continue the investigation, notify affected defendants and ensure accuracy in future cases.

– By John Lam



# Stereotype of African-American Males Said to Stem From Days of Slavery

By **Rahsaan Thomas**  
Sport Editor

Racial stereotypes Americans face today – including the notion of the dangerous Black male — grew directly out of slavery and its aftermath, a study reports.

“These corrosive stereotypes fueled unequal treatment, and continue to do so even today,” said the December 2014 report. The U.S. is not a “post-racial” colorblind society, “where any racial disparities are due simply to characteristics or behaviors of the affected group themselves.”

The report is called *You Can’t Fix What You Don’t Look At: Acknowledging Race in Addressing Racial Discipline Disparities*. Its authors are Drs. Prudence Carter, Russell Skiba, Mariella Arredondo and Mica Pollock, Center For Evaluation & Education Policy, Indiana University.

They note early European settlers judged people of color as inferiority to Whites. Famous authors and scientists of that time circulated propaganda claiming to demonstrate the inferiority of non-Europeans to reinforce the stereotypes.

Slavery was justified in the eyes of Whites by the belief that Blacks were inferior. In order for slavery to work, Blacks had to be disciplined and “con-

trolled.”

One way of maintaining a higher order over Blacks were codes enacted beginning in the 17<sup>th</sup> century. Normal human activity was considered a crime for Blacks of that era. They “made it illegal for slaves to congregate, marry, travel without their masters’ permission or even learn to read.”

False rumors portraying Black men as aggressive and rapists were spread by slaveholders in fear of revolts. Although incidents of Black men raping White women were “rare or unheard of,” a law passed in 1700 in Pennsylvania by William Penn mandated death or castration for such an attempt.

The fear of Black men led to more than 2,500 of them being hanged between 1889 and 1918, mainly for minor offenses “like disputing with a White man, attempting to register to vote, asking a White woman’s hand in marriage or peeping in a window.”

Meanwhile, White men were raping Black women, forcing them to procreate or breed with other slaves and selling their children into slavery. Somehow, this was translated into Black women being “depicted as hypersexual, promiscuous and less virtuous than White women.”

Jim Crow laws continued segregation and a race hierarchy, with Blacks and other people of color on the bottom, long after slavery’s end.

To escape the oppressive laws, bombings and lynchings, Blacks fled the South for the North, where they still faced “attitudes and policies that reinforced segregation and stereotypes, and limited economic opportunity,” said the report.

“For nearly a century after the Civil War, laws and practices enforcing inferior schools for Blacks, Native-Americans, Asians and Mexican-Americans and significantly better educational access, housing and jobs for Whites led to economic and social cumulative advantage for Whites and growing disadvantage for people of color.”

After World War II, the U.S. Supreme court passed *Brown vs. Board of Education*, rejecting the separate but equal doctrine, requiring steps to overcome the hardships created by legalized segregation. Social scientists theorized increasing contact among different races and classes would break the grip of stereotypes, bias and discrimination. However, social segregation rigidity set stereotypical beliefs in many minds.

Physical and psychological separation across schools, housing areas and social boundaries by race and class fostered segregation and lessened opportunities for interracial interaction that could challenge the stereotypes, the authors said.

In the 1970s, the courts began to roll back or limit post-Brown civil rights reform. The courts refused to act unless it was shown that explicit laws were put into place supporting segregation.

“Segregationist mindsets spawned separatist government and private sector policies that continue to define many of our communities today,” according to the report.

“Controlling images and narratives about different groups of individuals can affect us all across racial lines,” said the report.

Middle class Blacks are no less likely to evaluate students subjectively than White middle class people, the report said. They often act with deep-seated implicit biases outside their conscious awareness.

These actions are often difficult to spot.

Microaggressions can look like a waiter serving a White patron before someone Black, acts conveying underlying (even if unconscious) messages that

people of color are less intelligent, otherwise inferior or more dangerous, or sudden overreactions to young people of color as threatening.

Recent studies on implicit bias show negative Black stereotypes are still widespread in U.S. culture. TV shows and other media reinforce negative Black stereotypes by portraying Blacks in the role of criminals. Study participants implicitly or, even unconsciously, associate Blacks with apes and words like “poison” or “cancer.”

A survey showed “58.9 percent of Black and White subjects endorsed at least one stereotypical view of difference in inborn ability.”

The controlling images of the deviant Black person sometimes have deadly consequences and create disruptions in the life chances of many people of color.

Not all is lost. “Police trainings are tackling implicit bias,” said the report. For example, Professor Patricia Devine developed a “multi-faceted prejudice habit-breaking” intervention that trained participants in debiasing strategies.

“Significant reductions in implicit bias among those trained provide tangible evidence that a controlled intervention can produce persistent reductions in implicit bias.”

## Report Suggest Blacks Are More Likely to Be Murdered

*Young Adults Ages 18-24 Years Old Have the Highest Homicide Rate of Any Age Group*

U.S. homicide rates have declined by nearly half, but young males still are the highest-risk group and Blacks are more likely to be murdered than are Whites, according to a federal Bureau of Justice Statistics report.

Homicide in the U.S. is at its lowest level since 1963, according to BJS findings based on the FBI’s Supplementary Homicide Report (SHR) data. It has dropped by 49 percent, from

9.3 homicides per 100,000 U.S. residents in 1992 to 4.7 in 2011.

Young Black males remain the highest-risk group. The average murder numbers for males was 3.6 times higher than for females and 6.3 times higher for Blacks than Whites. Young adults ages 18-24 years old have the highest homicide rate of any age group, despite a 22 percent decline in murders from 2002 to 2011, according to the report.

The peak homicide rate for Black males was nine times that of White males, the BJS reported.

SHR reported 6,830 Whites and 7,380 Blacks were murdered in 2011 at a rate of 2.8 for Whites and 17.3 for Blacks per 100,000 U.S. residents.

In 2011, the per-100,000 residents rate was 2.7 for ages 12-17; 11.9 for ages 18-24; 9.2 for ages 25-34; 5.2 for ages 35-49; 2.8 for ages 50-64 and 1.7 for

those 65 or older. The median age for being murdered was 30. The homicide rate for Blacks age 60 or older is four times higher than Whites age 60 or older.

In 2011, firearms killed victims in 66 percent of the cases involving single victims and 79 percent of those with multiple victims.

The study dated December 2013 was conducted by Erica L. Smith and Alexia Cooper,

Ph.D. and was titled *Homicide in the U.S. Known to Law Enforcement, 2011*.

SHR compiles homicide reports from local law enforcement that includes details such as victim and suspected offender demographic characteristics, the type of murder weapon and the number of victims.

The report did not separate Hispanics from non-Hispanic Whites.

—By **Rahsaan Thomas**

## Stevenson Challenges a System Based on Fear and Anger

*Continued from Page 1*

the collateral consequences of incarceration, disenfranchisement, the need to get closer to places where change is needed and changing the narrative on race, history, crime and the criminal justice system.

Stevenson told the men how in the 1980s politicians put forth a narrative of fear, which produced the anger that brought about mass incarceration.

“For the last 40 years politicians have been able to push a narrative based on fear and anger,” Stevenson said. “Our success in changing the world relies on us changing the narrative.”

Stevenson said politicians created a system in the U.S. where one in three young boys, Black and Brown, are projected to go to jail in their lifetimes.

Determined to make a difference, Stevenson co-founded the Equal Justice Initiative (EJI)

in 1989; a nonprofit organization that provides legal assistance to inmates. It is a complement to his legal practice and his tireless effort to bring justice for all.

“To change the world somebody’s going to have to stand when everyone else is sitting. Someone’s going to have to speak when everyone is quiet,” said Stevenson. “I believe that we have to change the narrative about race.”

Stevenson told the audience that the 13<sup>th</sup> Amendment to the U.S. Constitution did not do anything to change the narrative about slavery. He said, “Slavery didn’t end, it evolved.” He added, “The worst evil of slavery in America was not about the forced labor, but the narrative created around the idea of racial differences.”

The discourse delivered by Stevenson toggled between a lecture, admonishing those in attendance to duty, and instruc-

tion. He said humans are programmed to seek what is comfortable but urged the audience to “choose to do uncomfortable things to achieve justice.”

***“The worst evil of slavery in America was not about the forced labor, but the narrative created around the idea of racial differences”***

It is Stevenson’s opinion that many courts see the finality of prosecution and sentencing as being more important than justice. He said, “Wealth, not culpability, shapes our courts.”

In *Just Mercy* Stevenson

wrote that as a young law student he was told by a Southern Prisoners Defense Committee lawyer that “capital punishment means, ‘them without the capital get the punishment.’” To his audience of inmates he said, “Poverty is the opposite of justice.”

“I work in a broken system of justice,” said Stevenson. “I do what I do because I’m broken, too. You don’t get to justice thinking that you are right and just. You get to justice thinking that you are broken.”

In the April/May issue of *Time* magazine Stevenson is listed as number 55 of the 100 most influential people. “For decades, he has dedicated himself to fighting poverty and challenging racial discrimination in the criminal justice system with the perfect combination of unwavering passion and idealism,” wrote Serena Williams, a renowned tennis player.

There was no one single message when Stevenson spoke. His delivery was emphatic as he advised the men at San Quentin that they must change the narrative that’s written about them in the U.S., take the opportunity to engage in restorative justice, and get in proximity to the things they care about in order to change them.

“I believe that everybody is more than the worst thing you’ve ever done,” said Stevenson.

Stevenson is the executive director of EJI ([www.eji.com](http://www.eji.com)) and a professor of law at New York University Law School. He has argued before the U.S. Supreme Court five times and has won relief for many prisoners on death row. He is the recipient of many awards, including the MacArthur Foundation “Genius” Grant.

*R. Malik Harris and Ali Muhammad contributed to this article*



# Advocates Urge Lighter White-Collar Sentences

Advocates for Changes in Sentencing Guidelines Think the Time is Right

By Marcus Henderson  
Journalism Guild Writer

After a federal panel eased penalties for non-violent drug offenders, defense attorneys and prisoner advocates began calling for lighter sentences for white-collar crimes, according to an Associated Press report

by Eric Tucker.  
Some of these crimes focus on fraud, insider trading and embezzlement.  
Attorneys and advocates believe that under current sentencing structures people who have the smallest roles still receive harsh sentences.  
In 2013, the American Bar

Association forwarded a proposal to the sentencing commission asking that federal judges: Give more weight to a defendant's culpability and less to financial loss.  
Give thought to a defendant's sophistication, motive and the duration of the scheme.  
According to the AP report,

the Justice Department welcomed the review. But progress on the issue will be hampered by an American public still outraged by the corporate bigwigs who they say destroyed the economy.  
Still the advocates for changes in sentencing guidelines think the time is right. Some

federal judges have begun to show leniency in some of these cases. Plus, the Justice Department must lower the cost of an overcrowded federal prison system.  
Advocates see this as a window of opportunity to advance their agenda for new sentencing reform.

## Hijos de Padres Encarcelados Muestran Problemas de Comportamiento

Por Michael Cooke  
Escritor del gremio Periodístico

Un estudio universitario concluye que los hijos de padres encarcelados muestran problemas de comportamiento y salud mental.  
"Estos niños están cargados de desventajas," dijo Kristin Turney, autor del estudio y profesora asistente de sociología en la Universidad Irving de California. "Estos niños no solo están lidiando con el encarcelamiento de sus padres, pero también con problemas de salud mental. Todo esto podría causar que el encontrar empleo sea un reto mas difícil o sean esforzados a madurar mas rápido que sus compañeros."

El estudio fue presentado en la reunión anual 109 de la Asociación Americana de Sociología.  
Este estudio fue publicado en la edición de Septiembre de la Revista de Salud y Comportamiento Social.  
Tener un padre en la prisión esta "relacionado con los problemas de comportamiento de niños y condiciones tales como trastornos de insuficiencia hip-eractiva, problemas de aprendizaje, problemas de habla o lenguaje y retrasos en el desarrollo.  
Publicado por la Revisión Sociológica Americana y reportado el 25 de Agosto en el periódico USA Today, la revisión describe como el trauma físico y emocional de estar

en la prisión no solo daña al encarcelado, pero también a aquellos que están relacionados con ellos."  
El estudio refleja una foto complicada que indica como las consecuencias del encarcelamiento puede socializar a los hombres a responder rápidamente y con extrema violencia a un conflicto. También aumenta dramáticamente el riesgo de separación y el divorcio en matrimonios o relaciones íntimas causando depresión severa y problemas de salud mental para las mujeres separadas de sus parejas románticas.  
Hijos de padres encarcelados experimentan probabilidades menos favorables de educación paternal. Procesos de selección

social, tales como raza y clase social, son pronósticos del encarcelamiento en vez de ser un efecto causal, con minorías y hombres con insuficiente educación tienen más probabilidades de ser encarcelados según al estudio.  
Sin embargo, Glen Elliott, un director medico y presidente de psiquiatría en la Children's Health Council, estuvo en desacuerdo con las conclusiones. El declaro que enfermedades tales como ADHD son generalmente condiciones hereditarias de comportamiento. "No puedes suponer que estas son relaciones casuales," Elliot comento.  
Susan Brown, una profesora de sociología de la Universidad Estatal de Bowling

Green, hizo notar que el estudio ofrece, "evidencia indiscutible." Brown dijo, "pienso que este estudio crea un gran numero de temas importantes." El estudio concluyo que el encarcelamiento representa una barrera significativa para la participación de los padres en la educación de sus hijos después de ser puestos en libertad, y que el contacto con algún miembro de la familia es vital para detener la reincidencia. El estudio dice que un aumento en las oportunidades de visita, y el reducir barreras, tales como tener acceso a una transportación de precio económico a la prisión, puede beneficiar a padres y sus familias.  
traducción Miguel Quezada

## Study Shows Incarceration and Death Add to 1.5 Million 'Missing' Black Men

By Kevin D. Sawyer  
Journalism Guild Chairman

Mass incarceration and early deaths contribute to 1.5 million missing Black men in the United States, according to a study done by *The New York Times*.  
*The Times* reported, "For every 100 Black women not in jail, there are only 83 Black men. The remaining men – 1.5 million of them – are, in a sense, missing...This gap – driven mostly by incarceration and early deaths – barely exists among whites."  
The study compared the ratio of 17 missing Black men for every 100 Black women to Whites where there is "one missing White man for every 100 White women."

Of the U.S. cities with large populations of Blacks, the one with the biggest gender gap is Ferguson, Mo., with 40 Black men missing for every 100 Black women, reported *The Times*.  
**BLACK MEN**  
According to the study, Black men face a greater chance of dying young and are more likely to be incarcerated.  
"It is a measure of the deep disparities that continue to afflict Black men — disparities being debated after a recent spate of killings by the police," *The Times* reported. "Perhaps the starkest description of the situation is this: More than one out of every six Black men who today should

be between 25 and 54 years old have disappeared from daily life."  
**GENDER GAP**  
The report found the largest group of missing men can generally be found in the South. The gender gap in the West, however, tended to be smaller.  
"Of the 1.5 million missing Black men from 25 to 54 — which demographers call the prime-age years — higher imprisonment rates account for almost 600,000," *The Times* reported. "Almost 1 in 12 black men in this age group are behind bars, compared with 1 in 60 non-Black men in the age group."  
Homicide, according to the study, is the leading cause of

death for young Black men. It is a large factor in the gender discrepancy. Blacks also die more often from heart disease, respiratory disease and accidents than other demographic groups. This includes Black women.  
**MURDER AND HIV**  
Although murder and HIV rates for Black men have been falling, according to the study, the rate of incarceration for them has been on the rise since the 1980s.  
"In many communities, rising numbers of Black men spared an early death have been offset by rising numbers behind bars" *The Times* reported.  
The 17 missing men for ev-

ery 100 women gap in gender between Black males and females is non-existent in childhood, the report said. However, "An imbalance begins to appear among teenagers, continues to widen through the 20s and peaks in the 30s."  
This, according to the report, leaves many Black women hard-pressed to find a potential partner of the same race, while the remaining (83) Black men, who face an abundant supply of potential mates, have no incentive to compete to find one.  
"In those states hit hardest by the high incarceration rates, African American women have become more likely to work and more likely to pursue their education further than they are elsewhere," the report concluded.

## 13-Year-Old Lifer Michael 'Little B' Lewis Still Fighting for Freedom 19 States Incarcerated 73 Children Who Are 13 and 14 Years of Age

Continued from Page 1

13-year-old in prison in our entire country," reports *Daily Kos* blogger Shaun King.  
Other examples:  
When an argument over a toy ended in the death of his stepbrother, 14-year-old Missouri native Quantel Lotts was convicted of murder and sentenced to life in prison in 2000.  
Fourteen-year-old Antonio Nuñez was picked up at a party and got into a car with two men nearly twice his age. One of the men later claimed to be a kidnap victim. When their car was chased by the police and shots were fired, Antonio was arrested and convicted of aggravated kidnapping, along with the 27-year-old driver, and sentenced to life in prison in 2003.

In 2008, Stevenson's *EJI* issued a report that found 19 states incarcerated 73 children who are 13 and 14 years of age and have a sentence of life without the possibility of parole. *EJI* noted that the U.S. is the only country in the world where a 13-year-old could receive a sentence of life in prison without the possibility of parole.  
According to *EJI*, many young children in America are imperiled by abuse, neglect, domestic and community violence, and poverty. Without effective intervention and help, these children suffer, struggle and fall into despair and hopelessness. Some young teens cannot manage the emotional, social and psychological challenges of adolescence and eventually engage in destructive and

violent behavior.  
Kuntrell Jackson was sentenced to life in prison in 2003 after being convicted of a video store robbery and murder committed when he was 14 years old. The state of Arkansas sentenced Jackson despite the prosecutor's concession that he was not the one who killed the video store clerk, *EJI* reported.  
On June 25, 2012, the U.S. Supreme Court issued an historic ruling that mandatory life-without-parole sentences for all children 17 or younger convicted of homicide are unconstitutional.  
In light of that ruling the Arkansas Supreme Court ordered a resentencing hearing for Jackson. In 2014, Jackson, by then 28, was resentenced to 20 years and is currently serving his time in a maxi-

mum-security unit in Arkansas.  

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**"Many young children in America are imperiled by abuse, neglect, domestic violence, and poverty"**

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The Nevada Supreme Court has struck down sentences of life without the possibility of parole for juveniles. Such punishments, the court ruled, are a "denial of hope," and

"it means that good behavior and character improvement are immaterial; it means that whatever the future might hold in store for the mind and spirit of [the defendant], he will remain in prison for the rest of his days."  
*EJI* agrees and has stated that condemning young children to die in prison is cruel and incompatible with fundamental standards of decency that require protection for children.  
*EJI* litigates on behalf of condemned prisoners, juvenile offenders; people wrongly convicted or charged with violent crimes, poor people denied effective representation, and others whose trials are marked by racial bias or prosecutorial misconduct, according to its website ([www.eji.org](http://www.eji.org)).



# The Impressive Growth of *San Quentin News*

By Steve McNamara  
S.Q. News Adviser

If you are ever lucky enough to land in San Quentin Prison, walk down the hill to the Lower Yard. Check out the tennis and basketball courts, the baseball field and the drop-dead view of Mt. Tam. Then make your way through the crowd of inmates to the office of the *San Quentin News*, one of the few print newspapers in America that is actually flourishing.

Of course it helps that the paper's main target audience – prison inmates – has no access to the Internet, which is where a lot of newspaper readers outside of prison have taken their business. But even taking that into account, the growth of the paper to its current level of excellence is amazing. The man who planted the seed, former warden Bob Ayers, is himself amazed. "I hoped it would be good, but I never thought it would be this good," he said on a recent visit to the prison.

San Quentin journalism has quite a history. In the 1920s and 30s there was a paper named *Wall City News* that claimed to be "The Only Newspaper in the World Published Within The Walls of a Prison." That paper ceased publication, replaced in December 1940 by the *San Quentin News*. The father of the *News* was Clinton Duffy, the famously progressive warden of San Quentin. He wanted the paper to supplant the inmate grapevine and be a more reliable source of prison information.

The *S.Q. News* had its ups and downs thereafter. A high point came during the 1980s when there were scores of prison newspapers in the U.S. and in one competition the *News* was judged the best prison newspaper in the country. That was the Golden Age of prison journal-



Photo by Sam Hearn

Standing: Lt. S. Robinson, Kristina Khokhobashvili, Terry Thornton, Jeffrey Callison, Steve McNamara, Sitting: Linda Xiques, Joan Lisetor and John Eagan

ism when a succession of court decisions held that prisoner First Amendment rights could be abridged only in pursuit of "legitimate penological interests." Wardens couldn't edit stories just to eliminate offensive opinions. But they could deal with publications that bugged them by claiming that prison security was at risk. And so one after another prison newspaper vanished, including the *S.Q. News*.

Bob Ayers saw things differently. To revive the *News* in the spring of 2008 he tapped three former newspaper reporters and editors: John Eagan, Joan Lisetor and myself, to be joined later by Linda Xiques. The startup paper had a staff of about four inmates, none of whom had a clue as to how to put a newspaper together, so the paper was

largely created by the advisers. But inmate staff members were impressively quick learners and by now have taken ownership of the paper's production. These days suggestions by advisers are sometimes followed and sometimes politely ignored.

The staff has grown to about 15 inmates plus a farm team of some 20 inmates who meet weekly at the Journalism Guild to learn writing skills, contribute articles and who often move up to slots on the staff.

What started more than 75 years ago as an inside report on prison doings has grown substantially in size and scope of coverage. Articles still focus on San Quentin but there is also coverage of events and issues throughout the country. The monthly issues have gone

from 8 pages to 20 (sometimes 24) and the number of copies printed from 5,000 to 13,000. Seven years ago the paper was mainly seen within San Quentin; today it goes to another 20 of California's 34 adult prisons and to a large number of donors, officials and interested parties involved in the criminal justice system. Plus there is a website that features current and past issues, [www.sanquentinnews.com](http://www.sanquentinnews.com).

The presence of donors is significant. All prison newspapers were once supported by their prison systems. That was the case at San Quentin until early 2010 when the state closed the prison print shop. The paper teetered on the edge of oblivion until its then Editor-in-Chief, Michael (Harry O.) Harris, offered

to pay for the paper's printing at Marin Sun Printing, a newspaper plant I used to own. That kept the paper going until Harris was paroled in October 2011. Then I started a non-profit, the Prison Media Project, got a startup grant from the Marin Community Foundation and ever since we have been privately financed, mostly from foundations. The prison system provides office space, computers and office supplies.

The *S.Q. News* is one of the very few inmate-produced papers in existence, certainly in the U.S. There are prison newspapers in Texas and Minnesota, but they are produced by prison system headquarters with inmate participation. That's a big difference from the inmate-directed *S.Q. News*. The Angolite in Louisiana, a justly famous magazine published six times a year, is probably the only other strong inmate voice in the country.

San Quentin inmates are smart enough to avoid coverage that would infuriate the prison administration and get the paper shut down again. In turn the authorities, notably Public Information Officer Lt. Sam Robinson, oversee the paper with a very light hand. Coverage of criminal justice news is sometimes supportive and positive, sometimes quite critical.

The *S.Q. News* has received increasing notice and praise from outside. The Society of Professional Journalists conferred a James Madison Award in 2014 and there have been laudatory articles in *The New York Times*, *Los Angeles Times*, *Sacramento Bee* and *The Nation* magazine. Most recently a team of 11 from CNN spent a week at San Quentin filming for a segment of a new documentary series, "United Shades of America," due to show early in 2016. Don't miss it.

## Obamacare Makes Pell Grants Accessible for Youth Offenders

*'Trying to get quality education and instruction is an arduous undertaking'*

By Isaiah Thompson-Bonilla  
Journalism Guild Writer

Access to higher education for juvenile offenders during incarceration is more possible because the Obama administration has ruled that these youth are now eligible to apply for Pell Grants.

"(With access) to Pell Grants no longer an impediment, it puts pressure on youth correctional agencies and the school districts that run (teaching programs) inside of correctional facilities to rethink what they do," said David Domenici, a corporate lawyer turned educator. He co-founded Maya Angelou Public Charter Schools in 1997. The schools target at-risk teens in the Washington, D.C., area.

Domenici was quoted in a Dec. 29 article written by Katti Gray, contributing editor of *The Crime Report*.

Pell Grants were once readily available to incarcerated

men and women, but 20 years ago legislation was passed blocking inmates from access to the grants. The grants were named after former Rhode Island Sen. Claiborne Pell, with the intent to serve underprivileged people who sought higher education.

One of the possibilities afforded to these at-risk youths is their access to online college courses. Domenici pointed out that youth, who are at-risk for crime and have lower skill sets, do better with online courses, when access to a tutor is unavailable.

Other options include having local college professors come inside institutions to teach and tutor qualified students.

Of the 2,500 juvenile-only jails and prisons there are approximately 60,000 juveniles, with about 4,000 eligible for Pell Grants.

Very few juvenile offenders ever go on to get a college degree, said Domenici.

For those who qualify, having access to financial aid that they do not have to pay back matters a great deal. The U.S. government is acknowledging the need for these youths to have an opportunity for higher education, thus exponentially changing the course of their lives.

***"You should not have a large attendance problem. You often have small classes"***

Juvenile justice facilities across the country are largely tough on the children as well as the adults who work in that environment. Therefore, trying to get quality education and instruction is an arduous undertaking, Domenici said.

In many states, juvenile institutions are an extension of the adult correctional system, and education takes a back seat to other institutional concerns, such as custody and security issues, he added.

However The Division of Juvenile Justice in California has accredited schools in each of its youth facilities, with a major emphasis placed on education, according to the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation press office.

"The good news is if you get it going right, it is amazing for kids and for adults who are involved with this. You have these kids captive. You should not have a large attendance problem. You often have small classes," Domenici said.

Though classes are smaller, having quality instruction as well as a host of administrators on board pushing higher education gives these young people a good chance to

turn their lives around. They need to know that the adults charged with authority over them really believe that their lives are relevant, he commented.

For most of these children, having positive role models and peers to encourage the need for higher education was absent. Living in communities where criminal activity is lauded far more often than academic success does not leave kids with much incentive to excel in school, Domenici commented.

These kids need access to really good instruction as well as being surrounded by adults who really care. This will allow the platform for a more profound engagement of academic success, he noted. The kids will need much more triage, as they are ushered toward academic transformation, leading them to more opportunities and choices other than those associated with criminal activity.



# Kid CAT’s ‘State of Youth’ Measures Progress

By Miguel Quezada  
Staff Writer

Six months into the year, Kid CAT has made significant progress in accomplishing its goals and activities.

The changes stem from exceptional work by San Quentin prisoners and volunteers.

Early in 2015 children’s rights is making progress with two new bills, Senate Bills 261 and 382.

SB 261 would expand SB 260 to affect thousands of California inmates who were under the age of 23 when they committed their crimes. It would allow them expanded access to parole hearings.

SB 382 would make it more difficult for children to be prosecuted, sentenced in adult courts and be sent to the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation.

If passed, the bills will bring unprecedented reform to juvenile sentencing laws affecting thousands currently serving life sentences and will help juveniles that commit crimes to be committed to the Department of Juvenile Justice rather than adult prisons.

**This Year’s Progress:**

April: Photojournalist Richard Ross, author of *Girls In Justice* and *Juvenile In Justice*, interviewed Kid CAT members to highlight the men that are

## Kid CAT Speaks!

affected by laws that today are challenged. By revealing our stories of crime and transformation, we seek to place a face on the long-term impact of juvenile justice policy.

May: At the annual Kid CAT banquet, keynote speaker Alison Parker shared her commitment for the same goals that Kid CAT has in reforming children’s rights in the criminal justice system. Her commitment to the human rights reinforced the groups’ urgency to do the work we do on the inside and keeps us motivated to be the example of the people that they support. She is director of Human Rights Watch U.S. Program

The Beat Within and Kid CAT collaboration is growing and making a difference with each workshop.

Inspired by Kid CAT’s writings, a group of juvenile lifers at Chuckawalla State Prison formed their own writing group to share their stories to The Beat Within.

In Alameda Juvenile Hall, a staff member placed The Beat Within and Kid CAT stories on the wall of a maximum-security unit because of the difference the pieces made in the lives of the incarcerated children.

The group continues working

toward making October Youth Justice Awareness Month in California. If celebrated throughout schools, communities and by public officials, the event is aimed at raising awareness and affect change by making youth justice a shared responsibility in society.

The Kid CAT “Bay Area Hygiene Drive for Homeless Youth” is scheduled for the fall. In April, a Soledad State Prison inmate wrote to Kid CAT, saying he was inspired to begin organizing a hygiene drive at his institution. Kid CAT’s goal for this year is to increase inmate donations and, through our example, inspire universities and the community to form their own drives.

Kid CAT Speaks understands that when it comes to juvenile lifers primarily the focus is on male offenders, not young women. This does not accurately reflect the issue; therefore, Kid CAT Speaks will strive to report on issues that affect women juvenile lifers, seek ways to publish their stories and include them in the dialogue and effort for change.

**Changing Times:**

Citizens and lawmakers put in a lot of effort into laws addressing children’s rights.

Sometimes, it takes several years and even decades for these reforms to take place.

In the past year, a shift has taken place in the public dialogue concerning children’s rights beyond the usual pass or fail of legislation.

Initially the dialogue about children’s rights concerned studies revealing that the adolescent brain is not fully developed until the age of 25. Now the movement to reform children’s sentencing laws is not simply a matter of science but of a growing moral consciousness that stands to rupture the status quo of criminal justice policy and will transform public safety policy for the next several decades.

What the shift means in the moral compass of this state remains to be seen.

California is in the unique position to be the nation’s most progressive state in how it treats the future generations of youth and establishes precedents for

other states. Legislation that has been passed recognizes that young offenders have no place in the adult criminal justice or correctional systems.

SB 9 limited the practice of sentencing minors to serve Life Without Parole in adult prisons. The law providing inmates serving LWOP the recourse to have their prison terms reviewed after serving 25 years.

AB 1276 established a classification system in the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation that prevents offenders under the age of 22 from being housed with adult inmates on level four maximum-security yards. The law acknowledges that the prison yards were too dangerous for the young inmates and facilities lacked the appropriate programs necessary for their rehabilitation.

Kid CAT continues to expand in its mission and vision and to create awareness.

## Legislature Looks Toward Juvenile Evaluations Again

By John Lam  
Kid CAT Writer

California legislators are seeking to instate a process that would require courts to evaluate a juvenile offender before finding him or her eligible to be charged as an adult.

“The court shall cause the probation officer to investigate and submit a report on the behavioral patterns and social history of the minor being considered for a determination of unfitness,” states Fitness Hearings for Juvenile Offenders (SB 382).

Currently, minors as young as 14 may be charged as an adult in California.

“Since 2003, nearly 10,000 California youth under the age of 18 have been tried as adults in criminal courts and denied the services and treatment provided in the juvenile system,” noted the *Human Rights Watch*, which added, “While juvenile court is focused on what works for young people and is intent on rehabilitation, the primary purpose of the adult criminal justice system is to punish.”

“Juvenile court both holds young people accountable for their actions and requires participation in education, treatment, and other age-appropriate services,” states *Human Rights Watch* in a letter it urges supporters to send to their legislators.

According to the Federal Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention, substantially higher recidivism rates exist among youths who had been transferred to adult criminal courts, compared with those who were retained in the juvenile system.

“In a string of recent US Supreme Court cases, *Roper v. Simmons*, *Graham v. Florida*, and *Miller v. Alabama*, the nation’s highest court recognized

that differences between youth and adults render suspect any conclusion that a youth falls among the worst offenders.

**“10,000 California youth under the age of 18 have been tried as adults in criminal courts”**

The fact that teens are still developing neurologically and emotionally means that they are especially capable of personal growth. These are important factors that should be weighed in the context of deciding whether a youth should be tried as an adult,” the *Human Rights Watch* stated.

The criteria set forth to determine whether a juvenile is fit to be adjudicated in adult court will include:

- 1) The degree of criminal sophistication exhibited by the minor
- 2) The individual’s age, maturity, intellectual capacity, and physical, mental and emotional health at the time of the alleged offense, the minor’s susceptibility of being influenced by peer pressure, as well as the minor’s family and community environment, and the effect of childhood trauma on the minor’s criminal sophistication
- 3) Whether the minor can be rehabilitated prior to the expiration of the juvenile court’s jurisdiction when the minor reaches the age of 25.
- 4) Previous criminal history
- 5) Success of previous attempts by the juvenile court to rehabilitate the minor
- 6) The circumstances and gravity of the offense alleged in the petition to have been committed by the minor.

## SB 261 Would Change Lives Of Thousands of Youth Offenders

By Emile DeWeaver  
Staff Writer

Senator Loni Hancock’s Senate Bill 261 will change the lives of thousands of men like me who committed crimes as confused youth but who have grown and matured into responsible men and potential role models.

When I decided to write a plea for strong support of Hancock’s bill, I planned to say that by paroling *x* number of former youth offenders, California would save 60,000 times *x* tax dollars. I thought by pointing out what it meant for your pocketbook, you’d be more likely to write your local representative in support of SB 261. Then, I realized the absurdity of asking you to have faith in youth offenders’ tremendous potential to change while writing a piece that shows no faith in you.

### INCARCERATION COST

So I’m asking you to write the governor, your assemblymember and your senator not about fiscal budgetary costs, but about incarceration’s cost to our society. I want you to stand because the U.S. comprises 5 percent of the world’s population, but holds 25

percent of the world’s incarcerated population. Stand because something is wrong with criminal justice in America, and SB 261 moves us in a better direction. It acknowledges that rehabilitation can work, that when a trained parole board determines rehabilitation has taken place, there ought to be laws that integrate the rehabilitated back into society where they can contribute solutions to social problems, such as urban violence, that affect everyone.

### SOLUTIONS

And we *do* want to contribute solutions to social problems. I wish you could sit in a room with Kid CAT members. You would find incarcerated men who are deeply aware of the ways their crimes hurt their communities. One common bond among us is the weight of knowing that when we were children, we perpetuated destructive cycles that still destroy lives today. Another bond, our strongest, is our need to help stop these cycles. We watch news on TV; we see the children our nation loses to urban violence, and our hearts are screaming for a chance to return to the community and save them.

And we *can* save them. In a talk given at San Quentin State Prison, author Bryan Stevenson spoke about *proximity*, how engaging social problems personally, i.e. involving oneself with the issues, holds tremendous power to transform this world. There is no demographic more proximate to the ills destroying the youth in our communities than youth offenders who have rehabilitated themselves.

### SB 261

SB 261 requires young adults to be accountable for criminal actions, while recognizing their special capacity to learn and grow from their mistakes. SB 261 mandates that a young person who was under the age of 23 at the time of his or her crime and who was sentenced to extreme terms, like 67 years to life, instead serve a minimum of 15, 20, or 25 years in prison (depending on the seriousness of the crime) — whereupon they become eligible to plead their case to the parole board. The bill will not release criminals. It will release men who have become the change their communities hope to see. Rehabilitated youth offenders can show troubled youth the kind of men they must learn to be if destructive, urban cycles are to end. We are uniquely qualified to teach at-risk youth what nobody taught us when we were confused and at-risk ourselves. I hope you write your local representatives in support of SB 261, so we will have the chance to serve the communities that we helped ruin.

Kid CAT (Creating Awareness Together) is a group of men that committed their crimes as teens and were sentenced as adults to life terms. The group’s mission is to inspire humanity through education, mentorship and restorative practices. Kid CAT Speaks wants to hear from the male and female juvenile lifers, educators, and policy makers concerning juvenile justice issues and rehabilitation.



# Kid CAT Expresses Healing for Victims, Protection of Children at Annual Banquet

By Juan Haines  
Managing Editor

An audience including inmates, prison staff and community members listened to more than a dozen incarcerated young men share their stories about what it takes to bring healing to crime victims, while protecting chil-

dren's rights. The youngsters, Kid CAT members, told the crowd of more than 300 that accountability is paramount to moving forward in juvenile justice. Their stories included ones about living with traumatized parents who fled Vietnam and Cambodia in the early '80s and how seeing dead bodies in

a gang-infested neighborhood desensitized them to violence. Each story concluded with the prisoners telling the audience about the murders they committed as a young man. Kid CAT members are taught a curriculum through The First Step that includes lessons on masculinity, self-identity, feelings and emotions, communications, environmental influences, consequences, empathy and compassion, and forgiveness. Twice a month Kid CAT holds the Juvenile Lifer Support Group. It is a space where men can have a safe place to share their experiences of maturing in prison.

The group holds an annual hygiene drive for Bay Area homeless children. "The group started because of a need to have a community that can relate to each other on a truly personal level," the Kid CAT brochure reads.

Kid CAT supports the annual Global Youth Peace Summit created for youth around the world (aged 14-18) for a week-long experience devoted to person growth, healing, cultural exchange, leadership development and community building.

A local publication, *The Beat Within*, holds monthly writing workshops with members of Kid CAT so that incarcerated children have the opportunity to exchange thoughts with older offenders who more than likely had similar life experiences.

"What drove me in the beginning was that as a society we were throwing kids away," said keynote speaker, Alison Parker. "I understand how the law works," Parker said, "But, kids are being tried as adults."

"Human beings who are able to see each other are not able to distance each other," Parker said. "I wish we could make these connections before our communities get separated."

One of the original founders of Kid CAT in 2010, Garry "Malachi" Scott, was invited to address the crowd. Scott has since paroled and



Photo courtesy of SQPR

Garry "Malachi" Scott

is now a member of a council that addresses public safety in Oakland.

Opening with a joke, Scott said, "Yes, I've gained weight. Food is really good!"

"Kid CAT helped me," he continued. "Before, I lacked leadership and charisma. Now I know how we impact policy and changes. Things are happening in California, and I'm excited. You have reasons to

after me. Someone was murdered right in front of my house."

Scott said that the incident affected him more than he thought. He no longer saw the streets as a safe place. However, he said that after doing a libation in honor of the murdered person's life, he was able to process the incident and move on with this life.

"It all came from the tools



Photo courtesy of SQPR

Cleo Cloman opens up about his unique life story



Photo courtesy of SQPR

Tommy Winfrey talking about healing and change



Photo courtesy of SQPR

Alison Parker addressing the crowd about her determination to change policy

be hopeful."

Scott talked about how Restorative Justice impacted his life.

"There will be a time that you'll have to use those tools that you've learned," Scott said. "I woke up at 3 a.m. to multiple gunshots. I thought someone from my past was

that I've learned in here," Scott said. "It was done because of all the people I've met. There's so much value in your life. To Kid CAT members, the youth out there need us. Kid CAT needs to start receiving youth in here to help them. They need people who care about them."



Photo courtesy of SQPR

Gina Maya, Mike Tyler, Amy Rao, Edna M. Togba and the amazing Elizabeth Calvin enjoying each other's good company



# Treatment Plan for Troubled Youth Found to Be Better Inside Homes

By **Isaiah Thompson-Bonilla**  
Journalism Guild Writer

Treatment plans for troubled youth were found to be better when social workers and clinicians engaged clients at their homes instead of treating them in the traditional office setting. The article “Evidence-Based ‘Gold Standard’: Coveted, Yet Controversial,” written by Gary Gately, mentions the advantages of being able to sit in the living rooms of the clients. Scott W. Henggeler, Ph.D., said, “When you understand better, and there’s really nothing better than sitting in someone’s living room for this, when you understand the real-life context of folks – who’s living at the house, what people are like, what their life is like – it helps you develop better and more accurate treatment plans.” Henggeler was an intern at the University of Virginia’s medical school in the mid-1970s, and learned of this style of treatment from his supervisor, who

was a social worker on staff. Understanding the causative factors ultimately assists the health workers in developing a viable treatment tailored to the individual client. Visiting the

Evidence-based practices (EBP) have garnered praise and acceptance as well as controversy. Gately reports that there are purists who support the notion that only the pro-

funding, upstarts and home-grown programs find it difficult to compete with larger brand name programs. In the juvenile justice system, EBPs have been used to some degree since the mid-1990s. These evidence-based practices were modeled after the Food and Drug Administration’s format for reviewing applications for new drugs. As organizations seek funding, states, counties, federal and private foundations specify that a reform effort must be qualified as an EBP to receive funding. Requiring programs to be EBPs can lead to such disparities, according to James Bell, executive director of the Oakland-based W. Haywood Burns Institute, a movement geared toward eliminating racial and ethnic disparities in juvenile justice. Bell also expressed his

moral objection to the use of control groups of children who only receive a placebo treatment. There is no benefit to the children exposed to the placebo treatment, which calls into question the ethics of its use. But there has to be some paradigm for compromise. Bell believes in order to move forward evidence-based programs and generic programs must somehow find common ground. Secondly, developers of evidence-based programs and community members have to stop being pitted against one another. In such situations where communities and EBP organizations are at odds, a collaboration between the two should be formed to discover what are the best practices and treatments for young people, believes Bell. It appears that EBPs are here to stay. However, it is evident that there is still room for relationship building between the organizations and the conscious communities affected.



client allows the clinicians and social workers to see first-hand what is happening in the home, in real time, rather than have the client come to an office and report what is going on.

grams under the toughest scrutiny fall within the paradigm of the gold standard in medical practice. EBPs have been considered to be effective by many. However, due to limited

## Pelican Bay Prison Educators Aim Students Toward Graduation

Continued from Page 1

operates inside PBSP under Principal Janice Nelson, who has more than 16 years of correctional education experience. She leads a team of educators dedicated to helping these inmates get an education. Initially, every inmate in CDCR is given an Adult Basic Education assessment to determine his or her reading level. The inmate may fall into one of four categories, the first being Adult Basic Education (ABE) I for those who read between a zero and 3.9 grade reading level, ABE II for those reading at a fourth to 6.9 grade level, and ABE III for those who read between a seventh and 8.9 grade level. All others who read above a ninth-grade level can work to obtain either their high school diploma or general education degree (GED). For the academically low-functioning, PBSP’s Tsunami Adult School offers the Alternative Program (AP) classes. Due to the intensive nature, the class sizes are only around 54 students and most of the teachers meet their students in two groups per day. Teachers group their students by ability or subject area depending on the needs of the student. The Voluntary Education Program (VEP) largely provides instruction via distance learning and video programs. This is how PBSP is able to reach segregated populations such as those in the SHU and ASU. This same program also works well for inmate students who have jobs, such as kitchen workers or landscapers, who want to complete their high school diploma or GED. There currently are six VEP teachers at PBSP with one solely dedicated to college students. PBSP’s newest education program is within the Enhanced Outpatient Program (EOP). The EOP is reserved for mentally ill inmates, particularly those suffering from psychotic disorders. Due to the extreme

needs of these inmate-students, the class sizes are typically less than half of the AP courses. Obtaining a high school diploma requires more work than getting a GED. High school diploma students need at least 130 hours of course credit, which isn’t necessary for a GED. However, some inmate-students are determined to get their high school diploma despite the extra hurdles. Recent changes to rules for GED testing made it mandatory to take the test via computer. This presents a unique challenge, especially for a maximum-security institution like PBSP. Currently, inmate students at PBSP must take a computer literacy course before they can take the GED test. Certain inmates, like those in the SHU or ASU, cannot access computers due to security issues.

***“We realize that with this being Pelican Bay and the level of inmate we house it may not be as possible as other prisons, but we’ll try”***

While access to computers does pose a hindrance for GED testing, requiring inmates to take the computer literacy course is proving to be a positive experience, according to those involved. “In the computer class, inmates will sit next to each other and help each other,” one PBSP correctional officer said. “They may not necessarily do that on the yard, given prison politics.” If the inmate-student has already obtained a high school diploma or GED, then teachers at PBSP can help them enroll in college courses to earn cer-

tificates or Associates or Bachelors degrees. In order to enroll in college courses, the inmate student must first decide which college he wishes to enroll in and figure out how he is going to pay for the education. College education for inmates is not funded by CDCR. Inmate students must request fee waivers or coordinate with friends/family members to pay for their tuition and the cost of the textbooks. If the inmate student decides on a college and can pay the costs, then PBSP’s College Coordinator works to enroll the student in the school, typically on a first-come, first-served basis. Currently at PBSP, there are two students enrolled in Ohio State, 37 in Coastline Community College, 35 at Feather River Community College, and next semester there will 32 attending Lassen Community College.

On March 19, there were five inmate-students housed in the SHU who were taking their college mid-terms via Feather River Community College. Again, all courses are taught via distance learning models but that may soon change thanks to Senate Bill (SB) 1391. The passage of SB 1391, authored by State Senator Loni Hancock (D-Berkeley) last year, provided CDCR the ability to contract with the California Community Colleges Chancellor’s Office to create and support at least four pilot sites, still to be determined, to allow inmate students to earn college credits and have access to college counseling, placement, and disability support services. College professors may now teach college courses inside state prisons and receive compensation as if they were teaching the class to the public. PBSP doesn’t currently have an agreement with the local community college, College of the Redwoods, but PBSP VEP College Coordinator Kari Telaro is hoping this will change

in the near future. “I hope inmates will be able to have the traditional learning experience and be together instead of teaching at this individual level,” Telaro said. “We realize that with this being Pelican Bay and the level of inmate we house it may not be as possible as other prisons, but we’ll try.” There are currently more than 200 people on a waiting list to enroll in Feather River, which completely compensates inmates’ tuition and textbooks. Lassen Community College compensates inmates’ tuition, but the inmate must pay for his textbooks. Coastline Community College requires inmates to pay for both tuition and textbooks. PBSP’s Education staff is in discussions to begin a college textbook lending program where inmates who have previously bought the textbook for a course may donate it to the

lending program to allow other inmates to avoid paying the cost. Due to the unique qualities of PBSP, such as level of violence, heavy fog, frequent modified programs, etc., the education staff has to rely on creative ways to reach and educate students. Despite the hurdles the staff must overcome to motivate the inmate-students to complete their requirements, it’s working. Last year, 120 inmates graduated with their GEDs and so far this year 50 have graduated. When asked about their secret to success, PBSP Testing Coordinator Corrine Thogmartin said, “(It’s due to) dedicated teachers who love to teach, thinking outside the box to ensure education is continuously delivered despite all outside factors and working with custody. We sure appreciate those who assist in getting our students to us and keeping us all safe.”



Photo by Dana Simas

VEP College Coordinator Kari Telaro proctors tests and exams for inmates at PBSP who are enrolled in college courses



Is Rap My Daddy?

Yard Talk

**By Rahsaan Thomas**  
**Sports Editor**

In this issue the *San Quentin News* introduces a six-part series exploring the role rap music played in the turbulent early lives of many inmates within San Quentin's walls. For the men who came of age in the late 1980s and '90s, gangster rap music filled the void left by their absent fathers and by the socioeconomic conditions in America's various urban slums. The intro, *Is Rap My Daddy?*, launches a discussion of just how influential music can be. The "Yard Talk" group will share their insights as prisoners who grew up heavily affected by the genre to analyze:

Part I: *Is Rap Music My Daddy?* — Was Rap music like a father.

Part II: *My Dad's Influence* — Was the influence of rap music positive or negative?

Part III: *The Danger of Keeping it Real* — How rapper's self-imposed need to be authentic makes the genre more than just music.

Part IV: *All About the Money* — How and why money changed rap music from a positive social force to gangster themes

Part V: *Can The Trend Be Reversed?* — Can rap music become a positive influence again?

Part VI: *How We Can Reverse the Trend* — Ways rap music can have a positive renewal

The panel members are:

Demond Lewis, 40, is in prison for an attempted murder, assault with a firearm, and ex-felon discharging a gun in a case where he shot the victim in the leg. Under the first Three Strikes law, he was sentenced to 109-to-life.

Antoine Watie, 36, is from Sacramento. He is serving 31-to-life for voluntary manslaughter and related charges.

John "Yahya" Johnson, 43, is from Oakland. He is serving 30 years under the Three Strike law for two robberies. (One robbery counted as more than one strike.)

Richard "Bonaru" Richardson, 42, is from Modesto and used to rap. He is serving 47 years for robbery.

Eric Curtis, 46, is from Compton. He has served 20 years in prison on a 25-to-life sentence for gun possession and a high-speed chase under the Three Strikes law.

David Jassy, 40, is a multi-talented rapper and producer from Stockholm, Sweden, serving life for second degree murder that stemmed from a fistfight.

Antwan Williams, 27, is rapper who is Christian and has the uncanny ability to deliver his truths in a sincere and aggressive way that gives praise to God and is accepted by everyone. He is serving 15 years for kidnap/robbery. (He moved somebody a few feet during a holdup).

J. "Killa Clown" Medvin, 30, is a Caucasian rapper from Santa Rosa.

Marcus Henderson, 42, was sentenced to 100-to-life for murder and remains "unbroken."

*-Trenise Ferreira contributed to this article.*

In 1972 Warden Clinton T. Duffy Pushed for Prison Reform

**By A. Kevin Valvardi**  
**Journalism Guild Writer**

Jan. 28, 1972—Former San Quentin Warden Clinton T. Duffy continues his push for prison reforms.

Jan. 28, 1972—Educational program enables prisoners in maximum-security control units to receive high school diplomas.

Jan. 28, 1972—Prisoner Clyde Hall and three other inmates wound up in isolation after Hall was discovered at the bottom of a large hole in the South Block basement during an apparent escape attempt.

Jan. 28, 1972—Canine "Rebel" Adams becomes the official mascot of the *San Quentin News*.

Jan. 28, 1972—Group psychotherapy offered to San Quentin prisoners as a means to improve mental health.

Jan. 28, 1972—Skyline Gym introduces a new boxing contract.

Feb. 4, 1972—The new West Block canteen project known as Canteen West proves successful.

Feb. 4, 1972—New SATE program provides educational opportunities and support for San Quentin's African-American men.

Feb. 4, 1972—The San Quentin Pirates hand U.C. Medical Center their third straight varsity basketball loss.

March 3, 1972—The California Supreme Court rules the death penalty unconstitutional, allowing 107 men and women to be released from Death Row at two institutions.

March 3, 1972—San Quentin's population drops to 1,975, its lowest in over 50 years.

March 3, 1972—"Psycho," one of East Block's resident cats, survives a free fall from fifth tier while stalking winged prey.

March 3, 1972—The director of California's Adult Authority temporarily suspends all community release passes.


March 3, 1972—Bob Roberts takes over duties as *San Quentin News*' new sports editor.

March 9, 1972—One-hundred and sixty-two outside guests attend the 31<sup>st</sup> anniversary celebration of San Quentin's Alcoholics Anonymous chapter.

March 9, 1972—Former state and federal prisoner Dr. Thomas H. Cox becomes assistant professor of law and justice studies at Glassboro State College and pioneers a new college program at Leesburg State Prison in New Jersey.

March 9, 1972—Arab terrorist organization The Black September Group demands release of Sirhan Sirhan in exchange for diplomatic hostages in Sudan.

March 9, 1972—Seventy county prisoners are shipped to San Quentin for temporary housing following a disturbance and fire at local county jail.



San Quentin Archives

San Quentin Ex-Warden C. Duffy shakes the hand of a parolee who is being released

Forgiveness Is Essential for Victims and Families to Heal and Move Forward

*Continued from Page 1*

one would testify in court, said Scott.

Torres lost two sons on two separate occasions to what she calls domestic terrorism. Gang members murdered her sons for no logical reason, she said. Their father drank himself to death over the tragedies.

Scott said she felt betrayed when the killer of her son was released because no one would testify.

**SAN QUENTIN**

Scott first came into San Quentin as part of the group *No More Tears*.

"I wanted to meet somebody who would take a life," said Scott. "I wanted to know what that was like, what made that person do what they did. I wanted to find the root cause of violence because I know mothers did not raise murderers."

She is executive director and founder of *Healing 4 Our Families & Our Nation*, co-founder for *Mothers in Charge* and sponsor for *No More Tears*.

Scott started victim support groups because there were none when her son was murdered. She climbed out of depression, realizing she couldn't drink herself to death because there was "work to do."

**SURVIVOR**

"If I stayed in my victimization, I would continue to blame, judge, be bitter and be filled with a lot of negative things that would not let me grow," said Scott. "I wanted to be a survivor because I couldn't help anyone as a victim."

Scott retold the stories of other mothers from the 3,000 in her groups. One woman lost three sons on different occasions in the same neighborhood.

"Things happened when they were children. Some were molested, raped, racially profiled, bullied by gangs, called stupid, and had bad family dynamics. The children in us are screaming out, and if you don't get that out — this is why we have prisons filled with children in adults' bodies."

"We are all here for a purpose," said Scott. "We need you to come back to our communities. There is work to be done; we can't do it alone; we need our men."

Survivor Torres retold the pain of viewing the body of her son, Francisco Garcia Torres, and realizing it was evidence.

Another son, Alvaro Pena-Torres, was murdered in Richmond while having lunch with a friend. The murders turned Torres bitter and into a hunter bent on revenge.

"I offered anything to get information on who did it," said Torres.

She eventually received justice by going to Homeland Security. They implemented sweeps, arrested and convicted the killers of both her sons, said Torres.

**SENTENCING**

At their sentencing hearings, she asked the killers if she could visit them in prison one day. They all said yes, she said. Torres plans to visit the killers of her sons, when she is ready.

"Elizabeth's story broke my heart," said inmate Lino "Asmar" Ramos, who recently joined the RJ program. "It made me think of what the mother of my victim went through."

RJ master of ceremonies Mike Webb said, "I apologize for the crimes committed against you."

**REACTIONS**

After sitting in circles and hearing the stories of men convicted of crimes like murder, the visitors gave their reactions:

"We have to tear down the barriers of injustice against inmates and the bias," said Scott. "People don't think you can be healed; they want to lock you up forever, and that ain't the answer. We need our husbands back, our fathers back, and incarceration is not the answer."

Masha Lisitsa, a therapist who works with first-time felons, said, "It is a cathartic experience coming out and hearing shared stories. It breaks down the judgment for what it means to be in prison."

Lindsay Crawford, a high school teacher, attended the symposium to learn more about the process and find out how students could benefit from intervention aimed at healing all parties.

Her former co-worker Anjali Rodrigues said, "Restorative Justice should be part of every expulsion hearing."

Rodrigues, who is now a student at Harvard University, recalls a time restorative justice was noticeably absent for two freshman students whose pictures posted online revealed they had brought a gun to school. They were excellent students who had prior gang affiliation but were moving forward, and the gun wasn't loaded, she said.

**RESTORATIVE JUSTICE**

"It was a pivotal point in their lives, where they could go down two different paths," said Rodrigues. "I get the no-weapons policy, but whether they got expelled or not, a restorative justice circle should be a part of it so they could understand how their actions affected others, and to know that I was disappointed in their actions, but not them. There was not a space for that. It was punitive quickly. We need to look at the kid's individual background and see what we can do to guide them the right way."

Fateem Jackson performed a spoken word piece that emphasized, "All lives really do matter; that includes mine, and that includes yours."



# Beloved Artist Rene Garcia Jr. Passes Away

By Tommy Winfrey  
Arts Editor

San Quentin lost a valued member of the community on May 8. Teacher, multimedia artist and friend to many behind the walls of San Quentin, Rene Garcia Jr. passed away.

Garcia was born on July 9, 1973, and leaves behind his wife, Holly, two young children and a mother and sister who live in Arizona.

Best known outside the walls of San Quentin for his glitter paintings that capture pop culture at its best, Garcia was seen as just one of the guys in the art studio.

Garcia broke down the walls of prisoners he worked with by digging in and getting his hands dirty. It was a common site to see him with his hands covered in clay or glue and a smile on his face. He had a unique ability to make the same art material that they use in kindergarten cool and fun for grown men with egos that



Rene Garcia Jr.

File Photo

to invite him to apply,” said Carol Newborg, program manager of the San Quentin Prison Arts Program.

Garcia taught the men to work with everything from paint and canvas to glue and cardboard.

“I called Rene the Sparkle Artist because his

stuff always sparkled when I looked at it. He pushed me to make clay sculpture and suggested that I use a lot of different objects to sculpt, like paper clips and toothpicks. He was an all-around Bonaru dude,” said Fred Tinsley.

Recently Garcia began working on a new project in the studio. He had a vision of creating a graphic novel with the men so that they could tell their stories.

Typical of Garcia’s laid-back style, he was willing to let the men be in control of the project as far as deciding which stories would be told, and only offering his advice in the way of keeping the project on track.

“Rene was a nice guy that never would criticize you. He just watched what you were doing and would be supportive. It bothers me that we never got the graphic novel project off the ground before he passed away. We were just starting, and then his life got taken. It is sad, and it reminds me that life is fragile,” said Gerald Morgan.

The last time Garcia taught a class in San Quentin he passed around a project schedule for the graphic novel.

“He wasn’t like the normal artist that came in because of the mediums he used, which inspired me. The graphic novel project was awesome to me because it is something that I have been interested in my whole time in prison. He wanted us to stay away from the cliché



Artwork by Rene Garcia Jr.

Trooper

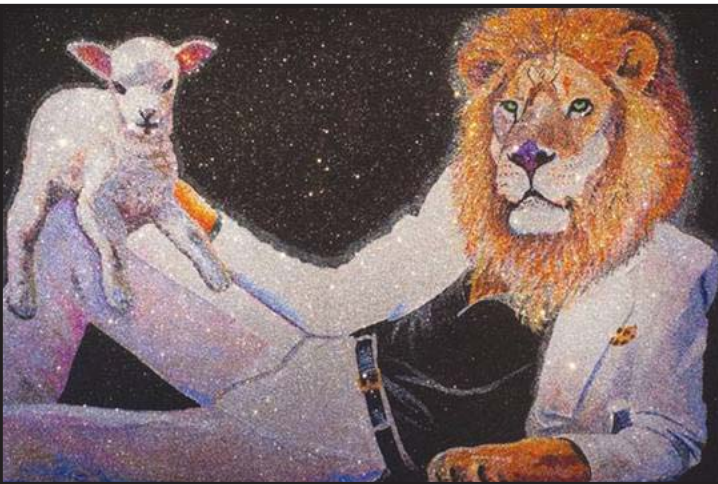
can sometimes be larger than life.

“As an instructor for the Monday arts class, Rene was an inspiration. As a person, he was even more than an inspiration. None of us are perfect, but Rene inspired us to perfect our craft,” said one of his students, Mark Stanley-Bey.

Garcia started coming to visit the San Quentin art stu-

dio about a year and half ago as a volunteer. Seeing that he was a natural fit with the artists in the studio, the William James Association eventually hired him as an artist in residence for the Prison Arts Project, and he taught an afternoon class every Monday.

“When I met Rene several years ago, I knew he and his



Artwork by Rene Garcia Jr.

Michael



File Photo

Rene giving the thumbs-up standing next to his bike

of prison, and that pushed me to get out of the institutional thinking that you can get stuck in while you’re here,” said Justus Evans.

It is evident to the men who knew him that Garcia supported the artist in his class and the whole population at San Quentin. “On the Day of Peace, an event that is held in honor of peace once a year in San Quentin, Rene and I walked down to the yard from the art center. We walked around the yard and looked at the art some of the guys created. He was just really interested in the whole lay of the land and where some of us spent our days,” said Nicola Bucci. “We approached the chalk art area, and I told him I thought I would do something with a chicken on it, and he told me about his friend that always put chickens in his art, and they always sold.” Bucci won first place that day.

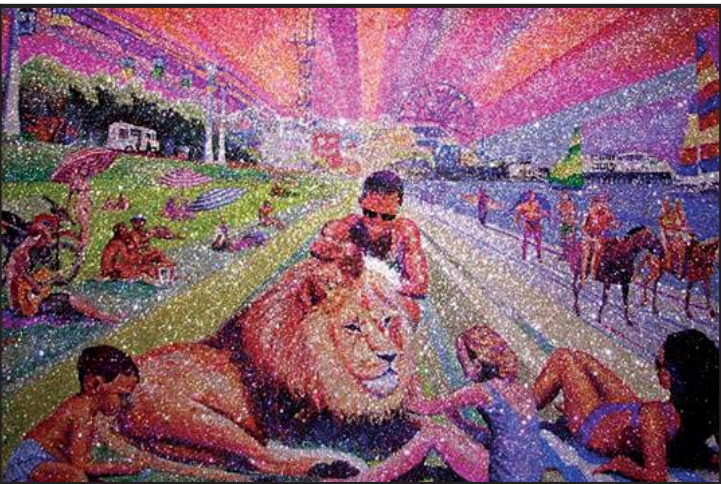
Garcia left early that day because he had to get home to celebrate his son’s birthday. That was the kind of guy he was. He recognized the importance of the day for the men inside San Quentin and wanted to be there with them even though it was an important day for his family outside.

“Rene was passionate about

his family because he spoke about them a lot. We shared a passion for *Star Wars*, and he confided in me that he did some work on one of the movies. Before he died, we were discussing his desire about writing an article about living the Jedi code in prison. I just want to remind his family there is no death; there is the force,” said Christopher Christensen.

Garcia’s death has had a huge impact on the artists who worked with him. Sentiments of disbelief and grief were expressed among men who considered themselves as his peers even though they are locked behind the walls of a prison. Talk in the art studio has centered around continuing the graphic novel project he started to honor his memory.

Program manager Newborg expressed sentiments that every one that knew him shared. “He told me that getting out of his studio and working collaboratively at the San Quentin studio had really enriched his life and art, and he was always very excited about the work the inmate artists were doing. He will be sorely missed, and the inmate artists will honor his memory with art yet to be developed.”



Artwork by Rene Garcia Jr.

Beach Picnic



# Day of Peace in San Quentin Promotes Non-Violence

Continued from Page 1

site of a violent race riot. That spring day an inmate self-help group, Teaching Responsibility Utilizing Sociological Training (TRUST), scheduled a yard event for Black History Month.

"We had music, speakers and dancers ready to perform," said event coordinator Kim Richman, PhD. "There were about 50 outside community members coming for the celebration."

Richman said that in 2006 San Quentin prison was constantly on lockdowns, mainly because of interracial strife.

Just before the celebration was about to begin, Richman got information "something" was about to happen on the yard and rushed the community members to a safe place. Immediately after that, the riot broke out.

"All of the volunteers were protected and surrounded by the TRUST inmate facilitators," Richman said. "Because of our

**THE SELF-HELP PROGRAMS:**  
*No More Tears; The Work; Protestant Church; Project L.A.; TRUST; ELITE; Brother's Keeper; SQ CARES; Native Hawaiians; Diabetes Project; Free to Succeed; REACH; Veterans Healing Veterans From the Inside Out; Vietnam Veterans Group of San Quentin; Catholic Church; Centering Prayer; Restorative Justice; Kairos; SQUIRES; TEDx, San Quentin Prison Report; Hope For Lifers; Guiding Rage Into Power.*

inmate facilitators all the volunteers got out safely." "It was never because of the men in the programs," Richman said. "I never thought twice about coming back. I wasn't really scared because the inmates in our group protected us."

After the riot, a group of inmate leaders approached the administration with the idea for a Day of Peace.

"That's amazing for a prison," said Chief Deputy Warden Kelly Mitchell, referring to the inmate-led idea.

Mitchell added that when auditors from the American Correctional Association interviewed inmates about San Quentin programs, they were impressed at how the inmates explained the value of self-help programs in fostering a peaceful environment.

Reading a dictionary definition of Peace, Mitchell said the one that got her attention was: Peace is freedom from oppression and of disgust from oppressive thoughts.

Mitchell advised the inmates to "Make that personal pledge from disgust of oppressive thoughts."

This year's event began with an Islamic prayer by Roosevelt "Askari" Johnson, Jr. He also told a story premised on individually bettering ourselves as the best way to the betterment of the world.

Prisoner Alex Bracamonte has been at San Quentin less than a year. In the past eight years, he's been housed at Calipatria and Centinela prisons.

"I was surprised by all the outside people just walking around and talking with inmates, and even Kelly Mitchell without COs around her," said Bracamonte. "At the other prisons we were lucky to have one event a year, and they were roped off.

You couldn't get close to them." John Rodgers, 58, has been incarcerated 29 years. He arrived at San Quentin two and a half months ago.

"I could see a Day of Peace at Soledad. It's mellow there," he said. "Ironwood would be different. It was just a harder institution."

Rodgers looked around at the dozens of tables promoting self-help programs.

"This is neat," he said. "You can talk at the tables and choose a program that fits you. I like Hope for Lifers because I think lifers need a little more hope than those who have [parole hearing] dates."

"After a number of years most guys are not the same as they were when they came in," Rodgers said. "Men do change if they have the right incentives. My five grandkids are my incentive to change. I'd like to get out and be a grandpa. I came in a kid, and now I can go out a grandpa. It makes a world of difference."

The Native Hawaiian Religious Group of San Quentin performed a traditional "Haka" with a Conflict Resolution twist. The group was led by elders (Makuas) Derrick Kualapai, Upumoni Ama and Damon L. Cooke.

When the performers slowly made their way to the stage, Cooke exclaimed, "Aloooooo-ha!"

He then gave the audience an interpretation of what the dance performance meant based on his knowledge and understanding of the Polynesian culture.

Cooke said the performance tied into the theme of Peace Day by showing how "human beings have dealt with conflict throughout the ages."

Fateem Jackson performed a "Spoken Word" piece he prepared especially for the Day of



Guest and prisoners holding up the peace sign in solidarity in support of non-violence



Albert, Reggie and Vance enjoying the Day of Peace event

## Self-Help Groups Define Peace:

**Financial Literacy Program, Freeman Capital:** "It is reconciliation and resources." **California Reentry Institute:** "It is leaving prison in a peaceful state of mind because you have all of the resources you need for a successful reentry." **Criminal and Gang Members Anonymous:** "It is fully understanding the 12 steps to recovery and effectively applying the steps in our lives. Step 2 tells us that we came to believe change is possible and truly believe one less criminal, one less crime, one less victim establishes peace." **Shakespeare at San Quentin:** "It is being authentic and leaving room for diversity, being true to your thoughts and feelings and remembering unity." **The Richmond Project:** "It is being the change we want to see in the world, mending broken relationships and creating healthy homes and safe havens for children." **Alliance for Change:** "We believe that peace will be achieved when every member of society works for and values fairness, justice, and equality for every other member of society." **The Last Mile:** "It is being able to create something from nothing that can enrich someone's life beyond measure." **ROOTS:** "It is embracing the diversity of culture. Know history; know self. No history. No self." **Kid CAT:** "It's to know you are safe because of the choices you make. It is to know who you are and accepting yourself. Peace is about making a stronger you and stronger community."



Vaughn Miles and Jack Jacqua soaking in some peace



Al Jefferson holding a gift bag from Walkenhorst



Darren Walkenhorst and Natalie Tovar receiving Certificates of Appreciation from Chris Schuhmacher



Gail "Mojo" Muldrow and Tony Saunders



California Reentry Institute stands together against violence



Nathan Lee sing his heart out



Alliance for CHANGE gathers in support of peace



Audrey Auld sing with two wonderful musicians

Peace. "I'll be the first to admit, I have my flaws," Jackson said in *All Lives Really Do Matter*, which addresses Jackson's encounter with police officers, while he was under the influence of drugs and armed with a pistol. The piece ponders why the police officers didn't kill him. Jackson said the incident gave him survivor's guilt.

Jackson, incarcerated 17 years, has been at San Quentin for three years and is involved with several self-help groups, including, Guiding Rage Into Power, House of Healing, Restorative Justice and the Day of Peace committee. He goes before the parole board in 2029.

### Side Walk Art:

Volunteer and artist Patrick Mahoney carefully observed the 100 squares of sidewalk chalk art, each drawn with peace as its theme. After deliberation, he chose number 12 as this year's winner. In second place was drawing number 96, and number 7 was third. He gave an honorable mention to number 15.

### The Band Plays On:

Lisa Starbird of Bread and Roses brought several musicians to entertain the crowd, including folksinger Auld. Starbird has been coming inside San Quentin for 40 years.

Auld performed songs written by San Quentin inmates at a song-writing workshop. "*I Am Not What I Have Done*," along with "*Hey Warden*" are available on CD in Walkenhorst's catalog.

Walkenhorst's customer service representative Natalie Tovar and executive Darren Walkenhorst walked around the yard talking to inmates about products in their catalog, mainly the various tennis shoe styles available in the catalog and the challenges of getting CDCR ap-



C. Kao putting his chalk skills to work



Nicola Bucci pulling off the 1st place drawing



Ozair showing off his talent

proval for new styles. Walkenhorst donated refreshments for the event, and this year has donated more than \$20,000 toward services geared toward family support throughout the California prison system.

"It's always my pleasure to help the musicians. I'm happy to do it," said Raphaele Casale, an Office Technician in the Warden's office. Casale sponsors the prison's music bands as well as an at-risk youth program called SQUIRES.

Photographer Peter Merts took still photos of the band and of inmates mingling on the yard with free staff and custody throughout the day.

"We come away with it a very good feeling," one of the Taiko drummers said. "I talk about this event months after I leave."

"This is my place of peace," said Day of Peace committee volunteer, Herman Yee.

*Miguel Quezada, Wesley R. Eisninger, and Damon Cooke contributed to this article.*



# Arts & Entertainment



Photo courtesy of P. Jo

## TIMES SQUARE

### Sudoku Corner

#### Complete This Puzzle Win a Prize!

Imagine being in a room blind folded with a bowl containing 50, 20, 10 and 5 dollar bills. You can only take one note out of the bowl at a time until you have four notes of the same value. What is the largest amount of cash you can end up with?

Explain your answer as clear as possible.  
Rules

The prize will be for completion of brain twister puzzles. All puzzle submissions should be sent via u-save-em envelope to San Quentin News/ Education Department. Only one entry per person.

All correct submissions will be place in a hat. The winner will be picked by a drawing of the first answer from that hat.

The prize is 2 Granola Bars. Prize will only be offered to inmates with privilege group status that allows for the prize items. Inmates transferred, sent to ad/seg, or otherwise not available to claim their prize will result in forfeiture.

The answer and winner's name will be published in the next issue of the San Quentin News.

#### Last Issue's Sudoku Solution

5	6	7	9	4	3	2	1	8
1	3	4	8	2	5	9	6	7
9	2	8	6	1	7	3	4	5
2	7	3	1	5	4	6	8	9
6	5	9	3	7	8	1	2	4
8	4	1	2	6	9	7	5	3
4	9	2	5	3	6	8	7	1
7	8	6	4	9	1	5	3	2
3	1	5	7	8	2	4	9	6

1	4	7	6	2	5	3	8	9
2	5	8	9	3	1	4	6	7
6	3	9	7	8	4	5	1	2
9	6	3	5	7	8	2	4	1
8	1	2	3	4	6	9	7	5
5	7	4	2	1	9	8	3	6
7	8	5	4	6	2	1	9	3
3	9	1	8	5	7	6	2	4
4	2	6	1	9	3	7	5	8

7		4	1				6	8
			8	7	3			
8								
6			4		7		9	
		2				4		
	4		2		8			5
								7
			5	3	6			
9	6				4	2		3

6	8	3			5	1	7	
				6				
4	5							8
	9				8	4		7
		6			8			
8		2	4				6	
3							4	5
				7				
	7	4	5			3	8	6

#### Snippets

Helium is usually mixed with oxygen to help reduce the impact of what is called narcosis to deep sea divers. They called the mixture of the two compounds cold heliox.

Every year the proud citizens of the United States dispose enough plastic film to shrink-wrap the whole state of Texas.

Again mankind falls short to his own creation. A personal computer was picked as "Man of the Year" for Time magazine at the end of 1982.

The King of Hearts in a deck of playing cards represents Charlemagne. Charlemagne was the king of Franks and the emperor of the west during 742-814.

Would it surprise you if I told you that Zebras are actually black? Well it's true, Zebras are black with white strips.

Andrew Jackson was labeled by his opponents a "jackass" during his presidential run in 1828. He placed a donkey on his campaign poster.

Volcano is a term that originated out of the name Vulcan, the Roman god of fire.

Emperor Heliogabalus (218-222 C.E.) collected spider webs by the ton as a hobby.



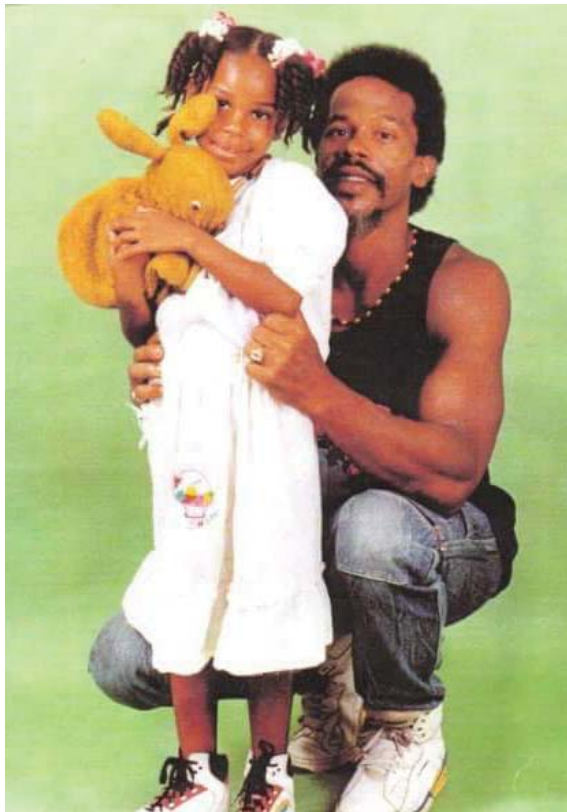
# A Daughter Looks Back...and Forward

By Latanya Stiner  
Contributing Writer

As the month of June approached, Father's Day sat at the forefront of my mind as I thought of how different it would be this time around. You see, I had gone twenty years without being able to celebrate this day or any other day with my father, Watani Stiner, the way other daughters did. Because of his incarceration, there had been no dinner outings, movie nights or picnics in the park. There were no home-cooked meals, jazz concerts or any of the traditional gift giving that usually took place. There was, however, an abundance of improvisation, communication and love. In other words, I refused to let the many small defeats define the relationship I had with my father.

Yes, as Father's Day drew near, I thought of the rocky road I had traveled over the past two decades. I remembered flying into this country desperate to be reunited with my dad who had already been imprisoned for eleven years before the airplane carrying my siblings and I had finally touched the ground. I recalled the powerful feeling of anticipation during the long ride in a crowded passenger van on the way from Los Angeles to visit my father in San Quentin State Prison for the first time. And I remembered the sadness of leaving him behind when visiting time was over. Undoubtedly, life while my father was behind the walls had been more difficult than one could ever imagine. Still, I never lost hope and I never stopped believing that one day we would be able to do all of the things that fathers and daughters do together on the outside. My focus remained on not letting the small defeats I

## An 'OG's' Perspective



File Photo

Young Latanya and her dad, Watani Stiner

suffered get the best of me. I was determined to maintain a solid relationship with my dad.

Of course, this had to be a two-way street. It was just as important for my father to improvise, communicate and show the love necessary to help preserve our bond. Despite the obstacles that prison presented, he

was as involved in my life as he could possibly be considering the circumstances. He continually wrote, called and showed the type of concern a daughter would expect from her father. And whenever I stumbled upon hardship, I could always read one the many letters he had written to me over the years

*"We may encounter many defeats but we must not be defeated." - Maya Angelou*

*"There are no defeats, only delayed victories." - My Dad*

and use it as a source of inspiration and strength to move on and pursue all of my dreams. It would be impossible to minimize the struggle my father and I faced in attempting to keep that loving connection alive, but I will tell anyone willing to listen that it was very much worth it. And now that he is home, we both are extremely excited about the opportunity to more freely cultivate our relationship as father and daughter. Having encountered what I thought were defeats along the way, I can nevertheless still proudly proclaim that we were definitely not defeated. In fact, as my father would say, "There are no defeats, only delayed victories!" Happy Father's Day, Dad. And to the men still on the inside who continue fighting to overcome the odds, happy Father's Day to you, too.



File Photo

Watani Stiner and his daughter Latanya after his release

## Experts Question Effectiveness of Reentry Programs in Jails

### Short stays and low post-release supervision are cited

By Thomas Gardner  
Journalism Guild Writer

The effectiveness of jail reentry programs at addressing rehabilitation and recidivism are questionable, according to a 2008 academic paper written by a team of experts.

#### TEAM

The team, composed of three criminologists and a statistician, based their finding on their own analyses along with studies and related academic reports by a variety of other sources, the paper documents.

"Unfortunately, the results produce more questions than answers about program impact," the authors write.

The paper is titled "Exploring Inmate Reentry in a Local Jail Setting: Implications for Outreach, Service Use, and Recidivism." Written as an article, it stresses distinction between state prison systems and jail settings.

"Several unique features

of the jail setting have served as formidable barriers to the implementation of reentry programs," say the authors.

According to their introductory summary, the authors conclude that reentry program participants at the local jail level perform no better than those who do not participate.

Since 1985, the United States has experienced an approximate 200 percent increase in the number of incarcerated persons – up from 744,208 to nearly 3 million, the study documents.

#### STUDY

According to the study, statistics show that within three years of release, more than 50 percent of those formerly incarcerated will be back in lockup. As a result, "The issue of prisoner reentry has taken center stage in the correctional research and policy discussions."

Representing Arizona State University, the RAND Corpo-

ration and John Jay College of Criminal Justice respectively, Michael D. White, Jessica Saunders, Christopher Fisher and Jeff Mellow constructed their article based upon examination of a New York City jail-based reentry program, the paper explains.

#### DATA

Statistical data provided in the paper indicates that on any given day there are far fewer inmates incarcerated at the local jail level as compared to the state prisons – 50 percent at most.

However, other data also provided in the paper shows that of those released annually from the local jails, as compared to those released annually from the state prisons, local jails release inmates back into the community at a rate at least 20 times greater than prisons.

In light of this, considering the vast numbers of inmates regularly released from local jail settings, the connection

between reintegration and improvements in public safety, public health and budgetary (fiscal) savings is increasingly apparent, the authors note.

"Developing and implementing programs to transition jail inmates to the community is complicated by the unique features of the jail setting, most notably inmates' short length of stay in jail, the mixing of pretrial and sentenced populations, and the typically low rates of post-release supervision. State prison inmates, for example, have an average length of stay of 25 months compared to jail inmates who are incarcerated on average between 10 and 20 days," the authors write.

#### CHALLENGES

Further describing the challenges faced in making analysis, the authors say, "Many participants failed to take advantage of the full complement of services."

And, the vexing inability to

characterize the type and nature ("quality") of services received by each participant is problematic, the authors explain.

Despite the data and survey limitations, the authors have been able to arrive at a conclusion. Accordingly, the study team says that: (1) "When examined as whole, released inmates who participated in reentry programs fared no better than comparable released inmates who did not participate. Individuals returned at approximately the same rate, at approximately the same time." And, (2) "Individuals who received 90 days of post-release services fared far better than both those who received less than 90 days of post-release services and those who did not participate in programs at all. This suggests that program dosage is important, but the finding is tempered by methodological concerns."

The academic research team emphasizes that their study is one of the first empirical examinations of reentry at the local jail setting.



# Anthony Burgess’ Ethical Twist With Rehabilitation in ‘A Clockwork Orange’

By Juan Haines  
Managing Editor

Anthony Burgess wrote *A Clockwork Orange* in 1962. Stanley Kubrick’s Hollywood version in 1971 kept to the novel’s theme: changing criminal minds through rehabilitation is the goal for prison.

However, an important question is raised in *A Clockwork Orange*: when rehabilitative tools cross ethical lines, what then?

*A Clockwork Orange* looks at a society where crime is running amok, and the penal system is out of date and ineffective.

Society becomes so desperate for modernization to its prison system that it is willing to do away with free will and experiment with a mind-altering drug that stops criminal thinking.

The subject of the experiment

is such a vile character that it seems plausible to try the new tactic.

You can’t get any worse than Alex, whose reckless and scandalous escapades continue until someone is killed. Magnifying his deprecation of humanity, after he’s caught and imprisoned, his ethics, mentality and behavior do not improve; they deteriorate.

The government’s fix is Reclamation Treatment, a behavioral modification program that controls thoughts and behavior through a drug that causes severe unpleasant reactions when the person sees something “deemed” criminal or immoral.

Inmates who successfully complete Reclamation Treatment are released from prison.

Thinking he’s gotten a get-out-of-jail-free card, Alex volunteers.

The following passages by the prison warden, then its chaplain, are examples where Burgess suggests that tampering with free will has dire consequences.

Well, these new ridiculous ideas have come at last and orders are orders, though I may say to you in confidence that I do not approve. I most emphatically do not approve. An eye for an eye, I say. If someone hits you, you hit back, do you not? Why then should not the State, very severely hit by you brutal hoodligans, not hit back also? But the new view is to say no. The new view is that we turn the bad into the good. All of which seems to me grossly unjust.

You are to be made into a good boy, 6655321. Never again will you have the desire to commit acts of violence or to offend in any way whatsoever against the State’s Peace...It may not be

## BOOK REVIEW



nice to be good, little 6655321. It may be horrible to be good... Does God want goodness or the choice of goodness...in choosing to be deprived of the ability to make an ethical choice, you have in a sense really chosen the good. So I shall like to think.

These passages illustrate that using a rehabilitative process that destroys free will is diametric to individualism in human nature, while at the same time, it

asserts that vengeance that only punishes an individual forgets that someday the person has to return to the community.

Ultimately, the dilemma posed in *A Clockwork Orange*, as manifested through the novel’s characters, are that public officials who are charged with implementing reform, rehabilitation or punishment are facsimiles of the warden or chaplain. Wardens have their own ideas of justice—prodded along by the exploitive nature of victim-rights organizations, heavily focused on punishment. Chaplains, the moral compass of society, are made into alcoholics, which metaphorically says that these officials have a diminished capacity to think clearly about the individual nature of mankind.

*A Clockwork Orange* successfully depicts the negative and mechanical results of negating free will in human beings.

# The Hidden Monster Inside of Dracula

By S.Q. Reviews

S.Q. Reviews continues the theme we explored in May: What is the so-called monster’s side of the story?

In *Dracula Untold*, Dracula (Luke Evans) grows up in the Turkish court as a slave-soldier. Stripped from his father’s court, he is trained to be a fanatic killer for the sultan. After the Sultan’s death releases Dracula from service to inherit Transylvania’s rule, he finds himself faced with his bloody reputation as Vlad the Impaler and a decision.

Will he send his son (Art Parkinson), along with a thousand other children, to endure the same life that turned Dracula into a killer? *Dracula Untold* is the story of how a father be-

comes a vampire to protect his son and nation from the Turkish empire.

S.Q. Reviews sits down to discuss the movie.

Rahsaan Thomas says, “One thing I like is Dracula understood that once he became a monster, he couldn’t turn back. So he set up an ending that would protect everyone from him.”

“But wasn’t he a monster before he became a vampire?” John Chiu asks. “Vlad the Impaler killed thousands.”

“Vlad was raised to be a monster,” Thomas says. “Situational forces made him act like a monster. Once he was free to do his

own thing, he was a good man: loving husband, father, ruler.”

“Let’s back up a little,” says Emile DeWeaver. “You said *Once he became a monster, he couldn’t turn back*. What would you say if someone said to you, *Rahsaan, you killed people. You’re a monster, and you can never come back from that?*”

Thomas looks around the seated circle. “I think there’s a difference between acting like a monster and being a monster. I grew up in an environment where I felt like I had to act like a monster to survive.”

DeWeaver says, “But when a person sees you act like a monster, they think you’re a monster because how can they tell the difference? Isn’t that what you just did with Dracula? You saw

his actions, and you called him a monster who can never turn back.”

Thomas shakes his head. “When Dracula became a vampire, he couldn’t survive without killing other people. The need to kill came from within him; when he was the sultan’s slave, it came from outside, and that’s how you tell the difference.”

“My childhood environment twisted my values,” says DeWeaver, “but my rage came from me. Under your premise, I’m a monster that can’t change.”

“No, we talked about this in IMPACT,” Thomas says.

(IMPACT is an acronym for the self-help group *Incarcerated Men Putting Away Childish Things*. In this group, men work to dispel the misguided male role belief systems that led them to incarceration.)

Thomas continues, “You’re confusing responsibility with blame. Your choices were limited by things you didn’t get to choose. Like being Black and the social rules of your neigh-



borhood.”

“OK, but what’s the difference between me taking responsibility and me blaming myself?” asks DeWeaver.

Thomas steeples his hands. “Bad role models and limited choices are the problems that face us,” he says. “Responsibility is the solution.”

We rate *Dracula Untold* two and a half of five dinner cookies.

Contributors: *Emile DeWeaver, Rahsaan Thomas, Juan Meza, John Chiu*

## Veteran’s Group Collaborate

By Lee Jaspar  
Journalism Guild Writer

In 1998, the Veteran’s Group of San Quentin (VGSQ) formed the Veteran’s Interest Group (VIG) in collaboration with the Veterans Administration and numerous county, state and federal agencies.

The rationale behind this joint program is the hypothesis that pre-release discharge planning reduces recidivism.

With the approval of successive wardens at San Quentin, this program is facilitated through the volunteer efforts of professionals in the field of Veterans Affairs and continues to be an integral component of the work for veterans done by VGSQ.

The year the VIG was formed, the Department of Justice reported that 84,427 veterans were incarcerated across the United States. In 1995, Congress enacted a bill that provides funding under the “Incarcerated Veterans Transition Program,” which specifically addresses the term “eligible veteran” as a resident of a penal institution.

By 2000, the U.S. Department of Justice reported the number of incarcerated veterans had risen to 225,700, and this number has continued to climb.

VIG members participate in activities such as Real Choices, Operation MOM, Stamps for Soldiers, Tabs for Tots, a Christmas Toy Program, as well as scholarships and fund drives.

The group holds a variety of programs ranging from Anger Management to Victim Awareness.

The VIG program provides support to its members while achieving an unprecedented level of community outreach. When a veteran becomes aware of the tools for change, and is able to address past experiences with closure, the participation in community outreach increases dramatically.

The “Blueprint for Success,” a special report on the VIG program, highlights an unparalleled effort to utilize county state, and federal programs to fulfill the ultimate goal of returning veterans to freedom with zero recidivism.

## VGSQ Honors April

The Veteran’s Group of San Quentin designated the month of April in honor and recognition of Jesse Hernandez, who passed away in March.

His VGSQ family sent its love and condolences to Jesse’s free family.

“As the vice-chairman of the VGSQ, Jesse was an integral part of the VGSQ operations and always presented himself in an uplifting and encouraging way to those with whom he came in contact,” VGSQ said in a statement.

“He worked above and beyond the call of duty to add to the well-being of us all and we came to love our brother Jesse for his tireless work as well as who he was as a man.

“His positive contributions and strength to overcome great obstacles to see his commitments through were often the difference between success and failure for our group and will not be forgotten.”

# S.F. Begins New Court Program for Veterans Only

By Wesley R. Eisiminger  
Staff Writer

San Francisco has launched a new court for veterans only that emphasizes rehabilitation over punishment for low-level crimes.

“San Francisco’s community court, like others in the country, uses judges, not juries, to send defendants to drug treatment, shelter and social services, instead of handing down fines and time in overcrowded jails,” *The Associated Press* reported Dec. 25.

Superior Court Judge Cynthia Ming-mei Lee helped create the veterans court.

She had realized that veterans were different from other defendants. “They stood up straight, said, ‘Yes ma’am, no ma’am,’ and there was no street talk. This was a different animal,” she said.

Since the Community Justice Center was started about a year ago, 60 veterans have gone

through the court program, the *Associated Press* reported.

The center has received a \$350,000 federal grant that the program will use to expand to handle crimes such as drugs and domestic violence that often affect people who served on active military duty.

The *AP* reported on a veteran, Russell Phay. “Phay came out of the Army as a trained infantry combat soldier, but his tour ended just as his unit was headed out. He then had trouble readjusting to civilian life. He threatened his wife when she took their son to Colorado and ended up in prison.”

After serving his time, Phay said he got treatment. “I feel like people here understand the brotherhood,” he said.

The new program has mentors who are veterans themselves.

Lee said, “I like to say if you want to see the best of the legal system, spend Wednesday afternoon in veterans court.”



# Study Show Millions Suffer from Mental Disorder in America's Justice System

By Salvador Solorio  
Journalism Guild Writer

Approximately a million people in America's criminal justice system suffer from a major mental disorder, an academic study reports. However, the study suggests most crimes are not attributable to mental illnesses.

"These findings suggest that programs will be most effective in reducing recidivism if they expand beyond psychiatric symptoms" to address variable risk factors such as antisocial traits, according to the report by the American Psychological Association.

Of the 7.3 million people under correctional supervision in the United States (Bureau of Justice Statistics, 2009), about 15 percent suffer from serious disorders such as schizophrenia, bipolar disorder or major depression, the April 2014 report stated.

Approximately 1 million



Jennifer Skeem

people with a major mental disorder are involved in the criminal justice system, the report added.

The study authors are Jillian K. Peterson and Jennifer Skeem of the University of California, Irvine; Patrick Kennealy of the University of South Florida, Beth Bray of the University of North Dakota and Andrea Zvonkovic of Columbia University.

The study of 132 psychiatric patients at high risk for community violence found that anger robustly predicted violence. Impulsivity was another symptom included in the article's definition of mental illness. Bipolar symptoms of impulsivity include "distractibility" and "excessive involvement in pleasurable activities that have a high potential for painful consequences." Another symptom of mental illness, depression (hopelessness, suicide) was directly related to criminal

behavior in about 3 percent of cases.

Defendants acquitted by reason of insanity for one crime theoretically would not commit any other crimes apply even to offenders acquitted by reason of insanity. For example, researchers followed 585 offenders acquitted by reason of insanity for five years to identify factors that predicted revocation of conditional release from the hospital.

Clinical factors did not predict revocation, but general risk factors for crime did. (e.g. criminal history, substance abuse, being non-white, unmarried and unemployed). Persons acquitted of a crime by reason of insanity sometimes commit crimes based on similar risk factors as non-mentally ill offenders. This is consistent with the premise that these individuals commit "sane" and "insane" crimes over time.

Of crimes committed by

participants with schizophrenia spectrum disorders, 23 percent were completely or mostly related directly to symptoms. Forty-two percent were crimes against another person, 42 percent were property crimes and 16 percent were minor crimes, such as trespassing.

***"These findings suggest that programs will be most effective in reducing recidivism"***

Of the crimes committed by individuals in this study with bipolar disorder, 62 percent were completely or mostly related directly to symptoms. Thirty-nine percent were crimes against another person, 42 percent were property crimes and 19 percent were minor crimes.

Fifteen percent of crimes committed by participants with depression were completely or mostly related directly to symptoms. Thirty-nine percent of these crimes were against another person, 15 percent were property crimes and 46 percent were minor crimes.

The study concluded an offender who commits a crime that is directly connected to symptoms often commits other crimes unrelated to symp-



Beth Bray

toms. The majority of mostly or completely direct crimes (62 percent) were linked to symptoms of bipolar disorder.

Another finding of the study: System solutions like diversion programs that focus predominantly on symptom control tend to have little effect on recidivism.

This study also indicated that effective mental health treatment may prevent a minority of crimes from occurring, but would likely not improve criminal justice outcomes for the vast majority of offenders with mental illness.



Andrea Zvonkovic



Jillian K. Peterson



Patrick Kennealy

## Family Violence Triggers the Need for Intervention

By Tommy Bryant  
Journalism Guild Writer

The increase in family violence sparks a need for intervention.

Family violence is increasingly prevalent, affecting high numbers of children, as well as relatives in most cases. It was their most frightening experience ever, half of those exposed to an assault by another family member told the American Psychological Association, according to a 2014 report. More than

a quarter of them feared for their own safety.

Police are typically the first responders, and this in turn opens the gate to other interventions. All 50 states have made domestic violence arrests easier, when probable cause is indicated, without the victim having to press charges.

### RESEARCHERS

Multiple researchers concluded, "It is well-established that exposed children experience

adverse psychological consequences and elevated risk of all forms of child maltreatment."

Surprisingly, little research has been done on criminal justice responses to family violence across the country. The intervention services are sadly under-funded with respect to the size and impact of the problem.

The national snapshot of interventions for family violence incidents shows best practices — such as serving restraining orders with victim-perpetrator

separations and/or jail — were not used consistently, suggesting that more police training is needed. Safety planning and several other interventions are overlooked or left to a court's discretion

### PHYSICAL INJURY

A reported 53 percent of cases involving physical injury and police reports did not lead to an arrest even when a child was hurt. Of the original 517 polled by researchers, only 10 served

jail time.

Domestic violence victims' services is basically placed into a "black box," suggested one 2009 report, with little feedback about the type of interventions used and or what really works.

Researchers conclude there is no one answer to the incidence of violence in the home.

In most cases family violence happens long before the police are called. Research data revealed no blanket cure that can be used to stop this widespread and destructive behavior.

## Parents of Mentally Ill Prisoner File Wrongful Death Suit

*Joseph Duran was found dead in his cell Sept. 7, 2013*

By Thomas Gardner  
Journalism Guild Writer

A wrongful death claim has been filed against the California prison system by the parents of a mentally ill prisoner who died after he was pepper sprayed in his cell, a newspaper reports.

The *Sacramento Bee* reported inmate Joseph Duran was found dead in his cell Sept. 7, 2013, seven hours after being hit with pepper spray for refusing to let go of the food port in his cell door.

The newspaper reported Duran's death was one of sev-

eral similar cases that led to a judge's order to curb pepper spray on mentally ill prisoners.

Duran had undergone a tracheotomy, which restricted his breathing, the newspaper said.

"Duran yanked out his breathing tube after being doused with pepper spray inside his cell," according to the *Bee*.

"Guards refused to remove Duran and decontaminate him despite orders from prison medical staff," details the article, which relied on staff interviews contained in an internal report for the California Department

of Corrections and Rehabilitation.

Guards have used "excessive and cruel" force against inmates with mental health problems, the story said, quoting Michael Bien, an attorney representing mentally ill prisoners.

Last April U.S. District Court Judge Lawrence Karlton restricted the use of pepper spray on mentally ill inmates in cells and psychiatric facilities, with few exceptions, *The California Report* stated.

Judge Karlton then signed off in August on a state reform plan drawn up in compliance with

his earlier court order.

For their part, the California Correctional Peace Officer's Association (CCPOA) recognizes a problem with the current use of force, *The California Report* article said. CCPOA lobbyist Craig Brown, speaking of the reform plan, said, "The critical element is to appropriately train our members to recognize what they are dealing with."

As described by the *Bee*, the death of Duran at Mule Creek State Prison highlights an existing problem.

The CDCR has since changed

its pepper spray policy, which now disallows its use based solely on an open body part and also prohibits custody staff from overriding a medical decision that a prisoner is at risk or needs medical care, the newspaper said.

"You can't use force, harsh confinement and disciplinary measures without dealing with the fact our clients are seriously mentally ill," Bien told the *Bee* reporters.

According to the *Bee*, Duran's parents did not even know that he had died until the newspaper staff contacted them.



# U.S. Private Prisons Still Pile Up Huge Profits Despite Charges of Unethical Conduct

By Thomas Gardner  
Journalism Guild Writer

Private prison corporations continue to make huge profits from the United States’ high incarceration rates despite serious questions of unethical conduct, reports James Kilgore on Internet news sites *Truthout* and *Mint Press News*. The Corrections Corporation of America and The GEO Group are two of the most well-known prison companies in the U.S. Between them, they brought in about \$3.3 billion last year by operating numerous lock-up facilities and immigration detention centers. Critics of the private prison industry firms accuse these and other leading companies of

improprieties such as the delivery of spoiled food, charging exorbitantly high price rates for services, smuggling contraband and other illicit items into the institution and engaging in unlawful sexual relations with inmates. According to Kilgore, critics say that this unethical behavior takes place as a by-product of the more troubling and larger context, which is encouraging and promoting “mass incarceration.” In his article for *Truthout*, Kilgore identifies several sub-sectors within the larger prison industry sector: construction, electronic monitors, immigration and customs enforcement (ICE), supervision, food service, telecommunication and

personal supply goods for prisoners and prison staff. “Like many of the firms that reap profits from the prison-industrial complex, they keep quiet about it,” said Kilgore.

*“We have the highest ethical standards in the industry. We do the right thing”*

While it is clear that many of the private prison companies generate massive profits, supporters emphasize their belief that these firms benefit society

as a whole by providing excellent services for the common good of all. “We have the highest ethical standards in the industry. We do the right thing,” says New York-based Turner Construction, the largest in the field of prison contractors, reports Kilgore. “Transforming criminal justice while honoring God in all we do” is the vision and slogan of prison goods supplier Bob Barker Industries (no connection to the former television game show host). Critics, however, claim that the sub-sectors’ profiting off of the prison industry’s interest in larger and larger numbers of incarcerated men and women, represents a fundamental ethical conflict. Prison industry subgroups sometimes have conflicting interests among themselves, Kilgore reported. Colorado-based BI Incorporated specializes in GPS-driven ankle bracelet monitoring, said

Kilgore. Their “cutting edge” services monitor about 60,000 persons at any given time nationwide. However, for the GEO Group, whose core service is prison operation, more people out of prison on ankle bracelets could mean plummeting profits. Not surprisingly, added Kilgore, the GEO Group bought out BI in 2011 for \$415 million. According to Kilgore, those whose focus is on moral and ethical problems would “do the right thing,” and be wise by “pulling out of prison and jail building altogether.” He noted if Turner Construction, for example, were to do so, that would reduce its annual revenue by only 3 percent. Kilgore himself spent six and a half years incarcerated and is currently a research scholar at the University of Illinois’ Center for African Studies. His most recent book is titled *Understanding and Ending Mass Incarceration: A Primer*.

## Early Release Senate Bill 224 For Elderly Prisoner Amended

By Kevin D. Sawyer  
Journalism Guild Chairman

Legislation aimed at giving more elderly prisoners a chance of early parole has failed to meet its original objective. The measure is Senate Bill 224 by Sen. Carol Liu, D-Glendale. **AMENDED** The bill instead was amended to make the current Elderly Parole Program law, which gives prisoners 60 years or older who have served 25 years or more of their current sentence an earlier chance to parole. Before the amendment, SB 224 would have allowed prisoners 50 years and older who have served 15 years or longer on their current sentence an early chance to parole. The major costs for SB 224, prior to its amendment, would have taken more than \$5 mil-

lion from the General Fund for parole suitability hearings, according to the Appropriations Committee. **FISCAL IMPACT** The California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation (CDCR) identified provisions in SB 224 that would have a sizeable fiscal impact on the Board of Parole Hearings (BPH). According to the committee, more than 4,700 parole hearings were scheduled in 2014 at a budgeted cost of “approximately \$4 million for costs associated with transcripts and inmate counsel for those hearings.” **ADDITIONAL COST** The committee based the average cost of a hearing at \$850. Additional costs, according to the committee, would go in part to hiring BPH staff, commissioners,

clinical forensic psychologists and custody staff. “For every 50 inmates released to parole, first-year net cost savings could range from a minimum of \$300,000 to over \$1.5 million,” according to committee research. **OVERCROWDING** The current Elderly Parole Program came in response to prison overcrowding. In *Coleman v. Brown*, a federal court issued an order requiring the state to “implement an Elderly Parole Program so that prisoners who are 60 years of age or older and who have been incarcerated at least 25 years on their current sentence will be referred to the Board of Parole Hearings (BPH) to determine suitability for parole.” Those interested in this bill may contact their state Assembly and Senate members at [assembly.ca.gov/assembly-members](http://assembly.ca.gov/assembly-members) and [senate.ca.gov/senators](http://senate.ca.gov/senators).

## 37 Former Inmates Graduate From New State Drug Program

By James R. Abernathy Jr.  
Journalism Guild Writer

Thirty-seven former inmates celebrated a new phase in their lives with their recent graduation from a new state program for high-risk drug offenders. “You’ve all made mistakes; that doesn’t mean you’re a mistake,” Chris Hansen, Solano County probation chief, told the graduates at a January ceremony, according to Jessica Rogness of the Vacaville Reporter. Representatives for California State Sen. Lois Wolk and Assemblyman Jim Frazier presented the recipients with certificates from the state Legislature for completing the Solano County Center for Positive Change (CPC) program. CPC was implemented in response to Assembly Bill 109 to serve high-risk offenders under the Solano County Probation Department. Hanson said some of the graduates might have come into the program “kicking and screaming, but you reached out, and that took a lot.” Robert Muller, a CPC graduate attending the ceremony, presented his own success story. Michael’s Transportation in Vallejo paid \$5,000 to send Muller to bus-driving school. He was eventually hired as one of four full-time bus drivers for a company in San Francisco. “The encouragement I got from there was incredible. They didn’t ask me about my past; they asked me about my future,” said Muller.

Amy Ingles was the first woman to attend the CPC program. A former drug addict and victim of domestic abuse, Ingles went to prison five times. As a mother of three children, she is now married and attends Narcotics Anonymous. “They didn’t think I was going to do it,” said Ingles concerning her attendance and completion of the CPC program. In fact, both Ingles and Muller were among recipients who exceeded expectations. As such, they were awarded an additional certificate to commemorate their special effort in completing the program and changing their lives. The CPC has two centers, in Fairfield and Vallejo, which have been described as a “one-stop shop” due to the variety of professional programs they house under one roof. Services include health and social services, employment counselors and counseling for both mental health and substance abuse. The CPC has around 300 offenders referred to their services. Each client’s programs differ according to their individual needs. The process normally takes between eight to nine months to complete. The program is very effective compared to how probation officers used to send clients to several different offices for different needs, said Ruben Vang, CPC supervising deputy probation officer. CPC’s goal is to produce two graduating classes each year.

## Prison Finds New Revenue Stream in JPay

By Lee Jaspar  
Journalism Guild Writer

The American prison industry has found a huge new revenue stream in JPay as prison bankers cash in on captive customers. For 12 years, JPay Inc. has taken over much of the market for sending money to prisoners. It is now the only option for 450,000 inmates according to a report done by Daniel Wagner for the Center for Public Integrity. “JPay is one of the largest prison bankers/companies that provide financial services to inmates and their families, handling nearly 7 million transactions in 2013 and expects to transfer more than \$1 billion in 2014,” Wagner wrote. The report also found that JPay shares its profits with

prison systems, boosting the costs paid by families and forcing them to choose between sending money or paying their bills. JPay and other prison bankers have become central players in a multi-billion dollar economy that shifts the costs of incarceration onto families of prison inmates, Wagner noted. Some people arrive in jails with negative account balances thanks to fees assessed by the prison system. This forces families to pay large sums before their locked-up relative receives any money to spend, said the report. Before JPay and its competitors introduced electronic payments in prisons, inmates’ families typically mailed money orders directly to the facility where their relative was locked up. Many say the

process was faster and more convenient than going through JPay, said Wagner. JPay grew rapidly in the past 12 years, offering to save states time and money by handling all deposits into inmate accounts. In exchange, the company is allowed to charge families fees as high as 45 percent for electronic transfers, according to Wagner. “In no way is JPay cheaper when it comes to our families putting money in our accounts,” said one inmate in a letter sent to Wagner. “The old way of using money orders was much cheaper, easier, and in many instances, faster!” In a Facebook post from Spain, Angel Sanchez wrote, “The weaker someone is the easiest target for the greedy. This is happening all over the world and we need to stop it.”



# Shaka Senegal Muhammad Is a ‘One-Man Banquet’

By Kevin D. Sawyer  
Journalism Guild Chairman

One Muslim stands alone at San Quentin as a staunch adherent to the religious teachings of the Lost-Found Nation of Islam (NOI), commonly known also as Black Muslims. His distinction earned him the moniker “one-man banquet” by some of the crew in the prison bakery.

Shaka Senegal Muhammad, age 48, is the only Muslim the bakery has to make preparations to provide a bean pie. He said this is because the prison administration will not allow him to order a bean pie from an outside bakery.

Muhammad was the only San Quentin inmate to participate in a month-long fast that takes place each year during the month of the December. As an NOI Muslim in a California state prison he is unique; so much so every year he has to fast alone.

“Inmate Muhammad is the only known inmate member

of the Lost-Found Nation of Islam in the California Prison System,” California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation (CDCR) records state. “Inmate Muhammad is being afforded a reasonable accommodation to attend and practice his faith. He has his own time slot available in the Muslim Chapel...”

According to Muhammad, the fast was established by NOI Messenger Elijah Muhammad in response to the Christmas holiday season celebrated by Christians. When the fast breaks it is followed by a feast.

“Believers come together to have a feast consisting of bean pies, ice cream, and fellowship with other believers,” said Muhammad. “I fellowship by myself.”

Muhammad said a 1968 court case, *Horn v. People of California*, filed in the United States District Court, affords NOI Muslims their religious freedom.

“After the plaintiff (*Horn*)

filed his suit, the California Director of Corrections changed the prison regulations on Black Muslims’ religious rights,” court records state.

In 1973 more than 200 Black Muslim inmates and guests celebrated Saviour’s Day in what was then the Brotherhood of Muhammad’s Temple of Islam, San Quentin.

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**“No other inmates have expressed an interest in the Lost-Found Nation of Islam”**

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According to a 1973 archive of *San Quentin News* from the Harvard Law School Library, “Those in attendance were then invited to come down to the Lower Yard and join the Brotherhood of Islam in a

feast (‘spread’).”

“The highlight feature of any Saviour’s Day event is the presentation of the awards given to respective Brothers for outstanding performance and contribution to the unity and spiritual, social, economic and moral upliftment of their Black people,” the *News* reported.

Muhammad said he also celebrates Saviour’s Day, Master Fard Muhammad’s birthday, Feb. 26, 1877, the predecessor of the Messenger Elijah Muhammad.

“I’ve been referred to as a ‘dinosaur’ which is hilarious because I’m not even 50 yet,” said Muhammad. He said he only follows the teachings of the Messenger Elijah Muhammad.

Originally from Houston, Texas, Muhammad said he was born into the NOI religion because his parents were NOI Muslims in the days when the Honorable Elijah Muhammad reigned over the organization. For this reason he holds to his early religious teachings.

“Due to my religious beliefs I’m more or less different in how correctional officers view me. I’m clean cut, groomed; I walk with pride and dignity. I don’t use profanity, I don’t sag my pants, and I’m respectful,” said Muhammad.

“No other inmates have expressed an interest in the Lost-Found Nation of Islam,” CDCR documents state.

Muhammad said the NOI’s message is for the total uplifting of Black people. Because of this he says people tend to be curious about him.

“We (NOI) believe that the Black man and woman of North America are the chosen people of Allah, and that is who His message is for exclusively,” said Muhammad.

Muhammad has been at San Quentin since June 2012 where he woks as an IDAP (Inmate Disability Assistant Program) medical aid worker, a job that involves assisting other general population inmates who are mobility impaired.

“I’m one of the original four” (IDAP workers), said Muhammad. He began doing the job immediately after it was created; it requires him to be on call any time in the morning, afternoon and evening. “I’m strictly committed to the job.”

Muhammad was convicted in Los Angeles County for second degree murder “after five jury trials,” he said. He was a member of Muhammad Temple No. 27. While serving his sentence he said he has participated in rehabilitative programs when they were available.



Photo by Sam Hennes

Shaka Senegal Muhammad standing in front of San Quentin’s Central Health Service Building

## Report: Brooklyn’s Jury Pool Revamped

By Rahsaan Thomas  
Sports Editor

Gentrification has changed Brooklyn’s jury pool into well-off and educated white people who are pro-prosecution in criminal cases and pro-defendant in civil lawsuits, a newspaper reports.

That was the conclusion reached in a *New York Post* article written by Josh Saul titled *When Brooklyn Juries Gentrify, Defendants Lose*.

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**“These jurors aren’t pro-plaintiff anymore”**

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Brooklyn rent rates have jumped 77 percent from 2000-2012, according to a recent city comptroller’s office report, the article says. The percentage of white people living in the borough has risen with the rent, from 41 percent to 50, according to U.S. Census data, the article says.

Due to the gentrification of Brooklyn, people familiar with police brutality can’t afford to live there anymore, the article states.

“People who can afford to live in Brooklyn now don’t have the experience of police officers throwing them against cars and search-

ing them. A person who just moves here from Wisconsin or Wyoming, they can’t relate to (that). It doesn’t sound credible to them,” said high-profile lawyer Arthur Aidala, according to the article

“The grand jury used to have an anti-police sentiment. When I was a prosecutor 22 years ago, a jury would be 80 percent people of color,” he added.

Additionally, “The Williamsburg Effect” – gentrification’s effect on the neighborhood’s population makeup – has produced more pro-defendant civil juries.

“These jurors aren’t pro-plaintiff anymore,” said plaintiff lawyer Charen Kim, according to the article.

“There were very few minorities on the jury. It was a real white-bread jury. It’s a whole different ball game,” said plaintiffs’ lawyer Edmond Chakmakian about a case he settled just before the verdict for damages was announced. He feared the Williamsburg Effect would taint the jury, and settled his case. He settled for \$6 million and later found out the white jury was only going to give his client \$2 million, according to the article.

“The juror pool is getting more cosmopolitan here in Brooklyn. There’s more of a blend across all socioeconomic strata,” said Brooklyn Supreme Court Judge Vincent Del Giudice.

### Website Offers Help to Families of Those Incarcerated

A new and free search engine, [www.PrisonPath.com](http://www.PrisonPath.com), provides information for the public. The site helps users in clarifying confusion and fear of the unknown when a loved one is charged and arrested, or sentenced to imprisonment in the United States. PrisonPath provides information including the ability to find a person incarcerated, visitation rules, contact numbers, and more about every American prison or jail. It also allows families and friends of inmates to communicate with each other on a specific page.



# Firearm Buyers Database Improves

By Salvador Solorio  
Journalism Guild Writer

The federal government is working to improve reporting of persons banned from buying firearms, the Department of Justice reports.

The program was authorized in 2008 in the wake of the April 2007 shooting tragedy at Virginia Tech. The funds are being continued for the 2014 fiscal year.

The Virginia Tech shooter purchased guns from a federally licensed gun dealer because information about his prohibiting mental health history was not available on the database.

The database is intended to readily identify persons banned from firearm purchases by federal or state law. It will also reduce delays in firearm purchases by law-abiding persons, the government announcement states.

A Swedish study has examined heroin overdoses, described as the main cause of death among users of the drug.

The experience of a powerful high close to the edge of an overdose is the type of high some users intentionally seek, reports the International Journal of Drug Policy.

The effect of heroin is mainly determined by the potency and the amount of the dose, in connection to the user's tolerance, mood and relationship to the drug.

In a study approved by the Regional Ethical Review Board at Lund University, research was conducted on 35 heroin users from Sweden. Participants were studied to ascertain how they interpret and respond to overdoses of others as well as themselves.

Participants described how they were unable to notice an overdose of someone else due to their own state of intoxication.

"If you're really high yourself and everyone else is sitting around nodding off, then it can take a while before anyone realizes..." said one participant.

"Many are themselves so wasted that they can't handle checking whether it's an overdose... Heroin and benzo (bensodiazepins) filters out all emotional impressions, so that you don't care as much about others when you're high yourself," said another participant.

To experience another person overdosing is described by many as a dramatic event in which fear, shock and panic are common reactions.

In some instances, while witnessing an overdose, users



Photo courtesy of Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University

New Corps of Cadets residence hall at Virginia Tech. It is named Pearson Hall in honor of J. and Renae Pearson

The Bureau of Justice Statistics (BJS) is authorized to provide for improvements in the accuracy, quality, timeliness, immediate accessibility and integration of state criminal history and related records. It is also authorized to support the development and enhancement of national systems of criminal history and related records, including the National Instant Criminal Background Check System and the records of the National Crime Information Center.

States will be required to meet goals for completeness of the records submitted to the attorney general identifying individuals prohibited by state or federal

law from possessing firearms.

The records covered include automated information needed by the NICS to identify felony convictions, felony indictments, fugitives from justice, drug arrests and convictions, domestic violence protection orders, and misdemeanor crimes of domestic violence.

Records also sought by this program permit persons who have been adjudicated as mentally defective or have been committed to a mental institution to be added to the database.

# Judge Rules Vermont's Out-of-State Male Only Transfers Unconstitutional

Nathan Hall  
Journalism Guild Writer

A judge has ruled Vermont's practice of sending only male inmates to out-of-state prisons is unconstitutional.

The case involved Vermont inmate Michael Carpenter, incarcerated for three years, who was sent to a Kentucky prison despite having twin 5-year-old sons and a fiancée, reported the *Brattleboro Reformer*.

## SANCTION

"The court cannot sanction (the Department of Correction's) policy of sending male inmates far from home, regardless of whether they have close bonds with their young children, while keeping all women nearby," Judge Helen Toor wrote.

While in Vermont, Carpenter played weekly with his children, court documents show. His family could not afford to travel to Kentucky, and Vermont provided no funds for families to visit prisoners in other states.

## POLICY

DOC reported it has no policy to send men only inmates to out-of-state prisons, and it does not question prisoners about whether they have minor children before transferring inmates.

Vermont sends about 500 of its 2,000 prisoners to private prisons in Kentucky and Arizona, court documents show.

Suzi Wizowaty, executive director of the group Vermonters for Criminal Justice Reform, said the only remedy is to reduce inmate population.

# Study Shows Heroin Overdose Is Main Cause of Death Among Users

By James R. Abernathy Jr.  
Journalism Guild Writer

describe being shocked awake and receiving an adrenaline rush, which snapped them out of their own high. In such scenarios, the potential of a user saving another person from overdosing is much better.

"I lay down on the bed and told them to turn on *Give Me Shelter* by the (Rolling) Stones. Then I shot up. I remember people throwing stuff at me trying to wake me up... Luckily, my boyfriend came... Otherwise, I don't know where I would have been today," said a participant.

Several interviewees revealed how they left behind some they thought were dead, only later to discover that they had actually survived.

Symptoms of a user in need of help: collapsing, unresponsive change in facial color and wheezing noises.

Due to the difficulty in defining the seriousness of a potential overdose, solutions call for overdose prevention programs that teach response techniques.

Group sessions of drug users who interact and discuss overdose prevention strategies are another useful method.

One of the most important measures to save an overdose victim is to call emergency services.

In several states within the U.S., "Good Samaritan 911 laws" have been introduced to exempt heroin users who seek medical assistance from being criminally prosecuted.

"I have myself saved several people who overdosed," said a participant. "The guy survived because I kept him going until the ambulance came... I can't have that on my conscience, to leave someone to die and then read about it in the paper the next day."

By Angelo Falcone  
Journalism Guild Writer

The month of June is the second of four months with 30 days. This year, June has five Mondays and five Tuesdays. Moreover, June holds some interesting observances and celebrations.

Flag Day is on Sunday, June 14, and both Father's Day and the first day of summer occur on Sunday, June 21. The first day of summer is also recognized as the June or Summer Solstice.

According to the World Almanac, June is National Candy Month, Potty Training Awareness Month, National Safety Month and LGBT (Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender) Pride Month.

There are two astrological signs in June: Gemini, the sign of the Twins (May 21 to June 21) and Cancer, the sign of the Crab (June 22 to July 22). The Birthstone for the month of June is the Pearl, Moonstone or Alexandrite.

One of the most celebrated days during the month of June is Father's Day. How do the men on the mainline feel about their fathers or father figures? That's the question we asked of the men in blue.

Philip Senegal: "My father is my adviser. He guides me with all of my decisions. He gives me encouragement to pursue all of my career opportunities. My father is the man I pattern myself to be; he is my role model, my dad."

Roger Chavez: "A father, when you are young, means everything to a son. To Earnest Chavez: this Father's Day, I want to honor you for all of the love and joy that you have brought to our family. We all love you, Dad."

David Taylor: "The old man was a giant among men though he only stood five-six or five-

five. Indirectly, he inspired me to be a writer and an attorney from the books that he wrote and studied."

Joel Moore: "It is not easy to write what my father means to me because we are supposed to honor our mother and father and it has not been easy for me. I have never told him how I feel because my mother told me not to. I am talking about a cat that took a boy's childhood away and when I tried to speak up, it went all bad."

Valeray Richardson: "My father was my hero. He taught me by example of what a man is. He loved his children and wife. Although he is gone, he is watching over me. My father meant the world to me. RIP, Papa. Happy Father's Day."

Forrest Jones: "My father, William C. Jones Sr., who is now dead, means everything to me. He left me with the life of giving love to people, helping those in need, strengthening those who are weak, respecting all mankind, and loving God with all my heart, soul, and mind. These qualities were in my father and he instilled them in me. This is what makes him so special to me."

***"Thank you,  
Dad, for all  
your sacrifices  
to our family.  
Happy Father's  
Day Dad!"***

Chung C. Kao: "Dad loved me so much that I wish I could go back in time to make up for the decade he stood heartbroken for me."

Joseph Demerson: "My father was someone who we could always count on for sound advice."

He was honest, loving, a provider and always could be depended on. Our father was the epitome of what a man should be. He raised four girls and three boys with my mother — a task that would be daunting for most men today. Our dad, Edward Eugene Demerson, embodied the essence of what a father is: the spirit of honor, sacrifice, dignity, and godliness."

Nghiep Ke Lam: "My father spoke little but taught me much. I am grateful for the freedom he has given me to explore the world and the gift of curiosity."

Tim Thompson: "My father has never given up on me, even when I had given up on myself. A father's greatest attribute is always being there for his kids."

Arturo Avalos: "Being a father is the biggest blessing that God gave to men."

Rich Morris: "I didn't know anything about being a father when my son was born in '83. I was selfish and self-centered. After 30 years in prison, I understand my responsibility. I can't replace what I've missed, only make living amends to my son in living a clean life now."

John Wang: "Thank you, Dad, for all your sacrifices to our family. Happy Father's Day Dad!"

Guadalupe Aranda: "My father means very much to me. He is the man who taught me to respect others, about values and responsibility. He taught me to have empathy and love for my family and other people."

Matthew Nguyen: "He fought in a war, came to a foreign country, and was still able to provide for the family. My father is the best example for me."

Pedro Espinal: "To me, my father means a helping hand and an anchor in times of trouble."

Walter Johnson: "My father is my best friend. He was the first one to put a fishing pole in my hand, a sport that I still love today. Thanks, Dad."

# How Prisoners View the Men in Their Lives

## Asked On The Line



**1. Spokane, Wash.** — A jury has awarded \$8 million to the family of inmate Dale Stahl, who died in 2012, *The Associated Press* reports. The lawsuit claims guards ignored Stahl’s medical condition and kept him restrained after he had a diabetic seizure.

**2. Sacramento** — Three years after California began sending lower-level offenders to local lockups instead of state prisons, the number of inmates being released by county jails has increased by 37 percent, according to state auditors, *The Associated Press* reports.

**3. Sacramento** — Gov. Edmund G. Brown Jr. has appointed Brian Duffy as warden of California Health Care Facility, Stockton. Warden Duffy, 55, has served as acting warden since 2014.

**4. San Quentin** — On April 22 Raymond Edward Steele, 67, was found unresponsive in his cell in San Quentin Prison and pronounced dead, the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation said.

**5. San Quentin** — Richard James Poynton, 64, was found unresponsive in his cell in San Quentin Prison and pronounced dead on April 23. Two other Death Row inmates died this year of natural causes, officials said. Last year, a federal judge declared the state’s use of capital punishment unconstitutional because inmates lingered on Death Row for years or even decades. Currently there are 752 people on Death Row.

**6. San Francisco** — The California Supreme Court has



overtaken the death sentence of Paul Gordon Smith Jr., *The Associated Press* reports. The unanimous court agreed that an expert was improperly barred from testifying that Smith would be less of an escape risk on San Quentin’s Death Row than he was while awaiting trial in the Shasta County Jail. The jury was told of Smith’s several attempts to escape from jail and violent attitude toward guards. A prison expert was barred from telling the jury that security is tighter at San Quentin.

**7. Los Angeles** — Susan Mel-

len, 59, a mother of three who spent 17 years in prison for murder before she was exonerated, is suing Los Angeles, *The Associated Press* reports. Mellen was convicted in 1998 of killing a homeless man in Lawndale. She was freed last fall by a judge who said she was innocent and had been convicted on the word of a habitual liar.

**8. Phoenix, Ariz.** — Prisoners at the Maricopa County Jail were served a vegetarian lunch by actress Pamela Anderson, *The Associated Press* reports. The new diet supports Sheriff

Joe Arpaio’s effort to cut costs. The diet allows peanut butter sandwiches with oranges and some crackers for brunch and a hot meal of various vegetables and soy dishes for dinner. It has saved an estimated \$200,000 per year.

**9. Farmington, N.M.** — Several San Juan County prisoners are suing the jail, claiming they were left injured or in pain after being denied basic medical care, *The Daily Times* in Farmington reports. In the April 17 complaint, they allege the jail’s health care providers displayed

a “severe and deliberate indifference” to their medical needs.

**10. Lincoln, Neb.** — As a way to reduce prison crowding, the state legislators scaled back the use of mandatory minimum prison sentences for Class 1C and 1D felonies, including robbery, assault on a police officer and certain drug crimes, *The Associated Press* reports. The bill would also limit “habitual criminal” sentence enhancements to violent crimes.

**11. Missouri** — Andre Cole, 52, was executed on April 14 for killing a man 16 years ago. Cole was the third person put to death this year in Missouri, *The Associated Press* reports.

**12. San Antonio, Tex.** — Three immigrant mothers held at a Texas detention facility filed a lawsuit alleging that they were held in isolation in retaliation for their hunger strike to protest their detention and conditions at the center. The three women, who are from Latin America and are seeking asylum, are part of a class-action complaint filed against U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement officials and the private operator of the facility in Karnes City, southeast of San Antonio.

**13. Montgomery, Ala.** — The Legislature has approved changes to sentencing and probation standards in an effort to relieve severe overcrowding in state prisons, *The Associated Press* reports. The state’s prisons currently house twice the number of inmates they were designed to hold.

## We Can Use Your Help

The San Quentin News is not supported financially by the California prison system and depends on outside assistance. If you would like to help, there are two ways, both of which are tax-deductable. To contribute with a check, send it to Prison Media Project, c/o Media Alliance, 1904 Franklin Street, No. 818, Oakland, CA 94612. Do not use this address for general correspondence. Instead, write to the San Quentin News, 1 Main Street, San Quentin, CA 94964. To contribute with a credit card, go to our website, [www.sanquentinnews.com](http://www.sanquentinnews.com), click on Support, and then on that page go to the bottom paragraph and click on Here. That will take you to the page where you can use a credit card. A special thanks goes to Marin Sun Printing in San Rafael where our paper is printed.

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\*Have made more than one donation



# Buzzer-Beater Boosts Kings Over Green Team

**By Rahsaan Thomas**  
**Sports Editor**

Marvin Cosby's three-point-er at the buzzer lifted the San Quentin Kings over the Christian Sports Ministry Basketball Green Team, 73-72, in a game that featured the return of Golden State Warriors Assistant General Manager Kirk Lacob.

"That's the best way to end a game – with no time on the clock," said Kings player Antonio Manning.

"They played together as a team, played through adversity, and we kept our composure," said Kings Head Coach Orlando Harris.

Green Team led 71-64 with 3:32 left in regulation after Kevin Kelly nailed his second three-point-er of the game. Afterward, they focused on run-

ning out the clock.

The Kings came back. Aubra-Lamont "Coocoo" McNeely dropped his fifth trey, making the score 71-69.

Then Lacob missed at the rack and fouled the Kings' Oris "Pep" Williams. He made one free throw, but missed the other and a chance to tie.

Green Team's Chris Blees was fouled, stopping the clock at 35 seconds. He made one free throw for a 72-70 lead.

The Kings rotated the ball to Larry "TY" Jones, who shot an air ball. Cosby cut down the baseline, grabbed the rebound and called timeout, with three seconds left.

Williams called a double-screen play that was executed perfectly. Williams set the pick, and Demond Lewis dished Cosby the ball. Cosby went

for the jump shot. The basketball released over Kelly's outstretched hand and swished all net before the referee signaled time expired.

"Stellar shot," said Green Team's Pat Lacey.

"I knew it was good when it left my hands," said Cosby.

He dropped 15 points. Thad Fleeton led the Kings with 17.

The Golden State Warriors NBA playoff win over Memphis allowed Lacob to play basketball in San Quentin. He arrived back in the Bay Area at 4

a.m. that May 16 morning, after flying in from Memphis.

Golden State's clinch of a Western Conference finals appearance eliminated the need of a game seven and Lacob's presence at Oracle Arena. This was Lacob and Golden State accountant Ben Draa's first time back inside the prison this season.

"I feel like I have family here. I've been coming inside San Quentin for nine years. It's a constant reminder (of my blessings); I get value out of this," said Draa.

Lacob and Draa missed the Green Team's first game of their double-header against the San Quentin Warriors. The S.Q. Warriors won, 92-53.

McNeely and King's Captain Brian Asey greeted the Green team before tip-off.

"It is a privilege to welcome these guys back. I look forward to them coming in," Asey said.

"I've never seen brotherhood like this," said McNeely. "Y'all are my friends. Y'all are part of the community that we ter-

rorized and now we are trying to change our lives, and y'all are helping us do that."

The game was all gas. With 7:35 left in the second, Pat Lacey jammed off a King turnover. Lacey's basket put the Green Team up, 24-19.

"That was my first dunk since knee surgery," said Lacey.

The Kings took the lead with McNeely's hot shooting. He traded treys with the Green Team, making three in a row followed by a fourth made by Williams, which put the Kings up 38-35.

McNeely shot 5-7 from behind the arc.

"We are letting him get too many open threes – we have to run him off the line and make him drive," Lacey said about McNeely.

Lacob answered with a trey, tying the half-time score at 38. Lacob and Lacey contributed 15 points each. Lacey also had 10 boards. Chris Blees led the Green Team with 23 points and 18 rebounds.

The game went back and forth until the Kings overcame in the final second.

"Like Bishop said earlier, there is competition and there is driven – we are all driven to have fun, win or lose," said the Green Team's Mark Little.

## USF Tennis Team Schools S.Q. Players

The University of San Francisco tennis team returned to San Quentin to see old Inside Tennis Team friends and teach them some lessons.

"It's such a great experience, not only for the guys, but for all around," said USF Tennis coach Pablo Pires. "It's a relationship now."

The USF team started coming into San Quentin six years ago, after being asked by community volunteer Leslie Lava and ITT coach Don DeNevi. Pablo said he agreed because, "One of the missions of our school is to be in the community."

In addition, Pires grew up in Marin County hearing about San Quentin. He actually visited the prison on a tour while in high school.

"Every year we have to do this," said Pires.

Former USF assistant coach Charlie Cutler agreed.

"I started coming in two years ago and I really like it," said Cutler. "It is great to play with men who are tennis enthusiasts."

"It's really nice to meet you guys and hear your stories," said USF player Thomas Takemoto. "We like that you guys get excited to play us."

USF's tennis team is ranked 50<sup>th</sup> in the nation. They shared their skills by doing drills and playing doubles matches. In some, they mixed with ITT players.

ITT player Clay Long paired with USF's Nil Skajaa against his normal partner, Chris Schuhmacher, and USF's Vasco Valverde. Long and Skajaa won, 4-2.

"I felt sorry for my partner on the other side," said Long.

"Iaced him the first serve, but that must have been a fluke because I didn't do it again," said Schuhmacher.

In another mixed doubles match, Tim Thompson and Pires played against Orlando Harris and Cutler, winning 4-3.

"I learn more about cultures and socialization than tennis from the USF team," said Thompson. "The way those youngsters kick our butts lets us know we have a lot to learn – it's a humbling experience getting whipped by an 18-year-old."

"It's been close," said Nic Valko.

Other USF participants were Alex Santiago and Marco Barretto.



Kirk Lacob looking to pass the ball

## Three Relay Records Broken

Two relay race records were smashed and a third was just missed by the drop of a baton at this year's 1000 Mile Club track event on San Quentin's Lower Yard.

In the Distance Medley Relay, Carlos Ramirez, Clifton Williams, Markelle Taylor and Eddie Herena set the tone for the day by topping last year's record time of 13:20, coming in at 12:33.

"It was a team thing – (the team) broke the record," said Herena, who ran anchor.

The team also broke records individually. Williams ran his quarter-mile in 1:07, setting a new S.Q. 50-plus record. Taylor's time of 2:17 set a new S.Q. half-mile record and Herena's 5:14 tied his own one-mile record.

"It feels good to break a record, considering I've only been running for three months," said Taylor. "I joined the club a month ago, mainly for therapeutic reasons – to stay in shape and to keep my mind focused on using prison for self-help instead of being a hindrance."

The sprint 4 x 200 meter relay was won by Jonathan Cannon, John Windham, Tone "Barefoot" Evans and Donald Ray Walker Jr. in the record time of 1:46.

Last year, Windham and Evans teamed up with Eric Nelson and Leroy Lucas, setting the old record at 1:47. The 2014 team also set the record for the 4 x 100 meter relay at 47 seconds. Lucas ended up on another team this year.

"They didn't know I was going to run; I came out late," said Lucas.

"We had different partners this year. Walker and Cannon made the difference," said Windham.

"They saw my speed on the football field and Tone and Windham invited me to run," said Walker.

Cannon, Windham, Evans and Walker came in first in the 4 x 100 meter relay with a time of 49:93, even though Cannon dropped the baton on the hand-off. They missed last year's record by a little over two seconds.

"It's on me," said Cannon. "We had that."

"The new guy Walker is extremely fast," said Lucas. "They ran a good race with the exception of the fumble. I'm happy for the winning team, but I'm also happy they didn't break my record."

Windham declined to participate in the final race because he had just run in two sprint relays back-to-back.

Herena, Taylor and Vincente Gomez took the 4 x 400 meter relay in a time of 4:22.

The final event was the 4 x one-mile relay. Chris Scull, Oscar Aguilar, Reynaldo Campos and Gomez came in first with a time of 24:42.

Right behind them were four runners who are over 50. Larry Ford, Bruce Wells, Michael Keeeyes and Tone Evans finished the four miles with a time of 25:37.

Keeeyes, who is 67 years old, ran a mile in 6:19.

"I hope I'm an inspiration to young guys – if you take care of yourself, you can be in great shape at 67," said Keeeyes.

"I had my best individual mile pace to date at 6:38," said Haneef Wells.

Darren Settlemyer ran in the first four races. His teams finished fourth, third, second and second in the April 17 races.

"I was wearing them down," joked the 49-year-old Settlemyer. "The coaches motivate me to run. I want to make their time worthwhile."

"The guys who ran in all the races are the real MVPs," said Evans.

"There were great teams and great individual performances," said sponsor Diana Fitzpatrick. "Chris Scull ran a really fast 400 meters."

Skull completed the lap in 68 seconds.

"We all train together, gauge off each other, compete with each other, then come out and put our training to use," said Wells.

## Last Year's Top Teams Upset In Intramural League Season Opener

Two new basketball teams upset last year's favorites in the Intramural League opener on San Quentin's Lower Yard.

The Franchise, the defending champions, were upset by Squad Up, a new team, 70-55, and Pookie and the Boys beat Net Zero, 45-41.

The same team members returned for the Franchise squad, which swept everyone to win the championship last season.

Squad Up consists of Allan McIntosh, Oris "Pep" Williams, Rafael Cuevas, Greg Eskridge, Julio Saca, Carlyle "Otter" Blake, Aubra-Lamont "Coocoo" McNeely, Edward Moss and Jeffery "Mailman" Ratchford. Their coach is Orlando Harris, who also coaches the Kings.

McIntosh led all scores with 24 points, 16 rebounds and an assist. Eskridge contributed 11 points and 10 rebounds, and Saca added 10 points.

Montrell Vines led the Franchise with 15 points.

In the first half, both teams played as if they had jet lag. Several back-to-back turnovers and air-balled layup littered the stat sheets. A 10-0 run and a Saca layup at the buzz put Squad Up ahead 27-20. In the second half, Squad Up improved their play with help off the bench and put The Franchise away.

The second game of the doubleheader was between Pookie and the Boys and Net Zero.

Charles "Pookie" Sylvester led the Boys with 16 points, 4 rebounds, 2 steals, 1 block and

an assist. Zaid Nicksolson added 12 points and 11 rebounds.

In the final three minutes of the game, Net Zero was down six points. Their coach, Harun Taylor, had his team trap the Boys' guards and caused a few turnovers. D. "Frog" DeWitt of Net Zero came alive, aggressively pouring on offense, but a travel call hampered his comeback efforts. He led Net Zero with 10 points, 3 rebounds, 4 assists and 2 steals.

Boys' coach Marcus Henderson advised his team to hold the ball and run the clock out. Anyone who continued to shoot was pulled out of the game, except Sylvester, who took an ill-advised three-point shot and made it, sealing the win for the Boys.

**–By Rahsaan Thomas**

**–By Rahsaan Thomas**



# Comedian Kamau Bell Checks Out Baseball in Prison

By **Rahsaan Thomas**  
Staff Writer

Comedian W. Kamau Bell experienced a baseball game on San Quentin's Field of Dreams between the A's and the visiting Cubs.

"I never seen a baseball game in prison; I've never seen a bird

in prison, I've never been to prison," said Bell.

He credits a willingness to give up his sneakers to not becoming one of the three Black men who, statistically, are, or were, incarcerated.

A medical code ended the game after the third inning, keeping the exciting scrimmage

from being counted in the record books but not off Bell's bucket list.

Seeing a baseball game was on Bell's to-do list as part of understanding what it's like to be in prison and the rehabilitative things going on at San Quentin. It's for an upcoming new CNN-TV series called United Shades of America. It's due to air in early 2016.

The April 22 baseball game was shaping up to be good. Gary "Cool Aid" Townes started as pitcher for the A's.

The Cubs had professional pitcher Dan Rogers, who plays for the San Rafael Pacifics baseball team. Rogers says he has played professional baseball in Canada, Australia and Switzerland.

"I just love playing; I don't care where," said Rogers. "Everyone here has a passion, and there is never a dull moment. Whether the score is up or down, everybody's into the game."

In the first inning, Bell watched Cub Brendan Holsherry single and steal second. However, the A's made it out of the inning without giving up any runs.

A's Cleo Cloman got an infield hit, beating the throw to first. When Rogers didn't get the ball he barehanded off in time. However, Cloman was tagged out at second when Anthony Denard hit the ball, but it forced Cloman right into the defense. The inning ended on a popup hit by Rose Royce.

At a practice before the game, Bell met Cloman and discussed baseball. Cloman told Bell, "I

should have never cheated on baseball with the streets." Had he stayed loyal to baseball, it could have taken him someplace much further than prison. He is now one of the top baseball play-

"I never thought I would be sad to leave prison," said Bell. "I'm sure we missed a lot of good stories."

At about 8 p.m., all inmates were sent back to their cells,



Photo by Sam Hearnes

A's Cleo Cloman up to bat



Photo by Jenna Lynn Sasso

Curtis "Wall Street" Carroll talking to Kamau Bell on the San Quentin Lower Yard

ers in San Quentin and ponders "What if."

The game remained scoreless until the third inning.

The Cub batter singled. Then Patrick singled in Jim Cullen, making the score 2-0.

Isaiah "Raheem" Thompson-Bonilla cut short a conversation with Bell to warm up. He replaced Townes on the mound.

An alarm blared, accompanied by orders for "all inmates" to "get down." All prisoners complied. After 25 minutes, the alarm still wasn't clear. Bell spent that time hanging out in the A's dugout, cracking jokes with the equipment manager, Kevin Lee.

"I met many people who I would be fine with if this person lived next door to me," said Bell.

Ten minutes later Bell and his film crew were escorted out of the prison, while all inmates remained on the ground.

ending the game. At 7:37 p.m., Death Row inmate Raymond Edward Steele, 67, was found unresponsive in his cell, according to a CDCR press release.

"The cause of death is unknown pending the results of an autopsy," the press release said.

The game didn't count because, "The visiting team has to have their bats after five innings," said the A's manager and sponsor, Steve Reichardt.

Accompanying Bell were the producers and crew of United Shades of America. They included: Executive Producer Star Price, Producer Angela Borg, Co-producer Alex Walton, Line Producer Bryan Ayvey, Audio Supervisor Hunter Sanders, Digital Imaging Technician Jared Washburn, Production Coordinator Jenna Lynn Sasso, Director of Photography Patrick Higgins and Assistant Cameraman Thomas Francis Patrick O'Meara IV.

## Warriors Zone Out Green Team

Three San Quentin Warriors had double-doubles in their opening day 80-70 victory over the visiting Christian Sport Ministry's Green Team.

Allan McIntosh led all scorers with 18 points and 12 rebounds. Anthony Ammons dropped 16 points and 10 boards. Harry "ATL" Smith contributed 12 points and 11 rebounds. The Warriors out-rebounded the Green Team, 63-33. Power forward Brad Shells added 10 points.

"They played tough. They whipped us; they manhandled us, they grabbed every rebound," said Green Team center Ted Hahs.

The game was close in the first half. The score was tied at 17 after the first quarter. At 4:20 in the second quarter, the Green Team was down 36-25, but made a run. Shooting guard Ben Ilegbodu hit a jumper, then stole the ball back and passed it to Brees for a layup at the buzzer, ending the half, 36-31, Warriors.

Then the Warriors blew the game open with their zone defense and good offense. With 4:21 seconds left in the fourth, McIntosh dished the ball to Smith in the paint. Smith spun past a defender and slam-dunked with authority, making the score 74-58.

"Greg Eskridge provided energy and toughness with his presence in the middle of our zone defense," said Warriors



Photo by Raphaelle Casale

Warrior's Harry "ATL" Smith sneaking up on Chris Brees

coach Daniel Wright.

"The zone caused us problems today. We couldn't hit the outside shots," said Green Team coach Bill Epling.

The Green Team made a push with five players scoring in double digits but fell 10 points short.

Hahs led his team with 15 points. Brees added 12 with 10 rebounds, two assists and three steals. Kyle Fowler dropped 11. Ant Maddox 14 and Ilegbod, 10.

"Alias Jones came in and played well. I didn't plan to use him, but Julio Saca was injured, and Alias stepped up," said Wright.

Jones came off the bench and hit two three-pointers, snatched four rebounds, two steals and

an assist.

"Subscribe to the theology of more. There are more needs out there, and there is more of God to go around," Hahs said in an inspirational message to members of both teams at halftime.

Despite the loss, the Green Team left San Quentin in good spirits.

"This is the best ball we get to play," said Green Team power forward Chris Brees.

"The feeling of playing in here is unmatched - it feels great," said Green Team guard Juston Willis. "There's a bigger picture here. Although we are on different teams, we have bonded, playing the same sport we all love so much."

-By **Rahsaan Thomas**

## Giants Beat Mission, 10-01

By **Marcus Henderson**  
Journalism Guild Writer

The S.Q. Giants baseball team routed the visiting Mission 10-1 with solid defense and strong hitting.

In the bottom of the third inning with two outs, Giants catcher Ruben Harper hit a deep ball to left field for an easy double. That sent Richard Zorns, who had walked, to third base.

Next pitcher John Appley belted a deep ball to the center field gate for a triple, driving in two runs as the small crowd of onlookers went crazy.

The hitting fest continued with the next three batters. Nico Vargas, Earnest "Earn" Hollo-way and Christopher "Cuddy Bo" Smith all hit doubles, ending the third inning 5-0 Giants.

"All of sudden everything started clicking for them. It's really hard to see that ball out there," said Mission third baseman Abe Zuckerman.

Mission managed a run in the top of the fourth off two walks and an RBI single.

That did not stop the Giants, who put up three more runs in the fourth, closing the inning

8-1.

Appley had a strong showing on the mound, striking out eight batters, 20 for the season. The rest of the team fielded all the ground balls and turned double plays with finesse.

"We were error-free today; when we are error-free, we are hard to beat," said Giant Calvin "CJ" Johnson.

Don Spence of the Giants added, "We are getting better as a team, now that we got a lot of time playing with each other."

The Giants tacked on two more runs in the seventh.

Mission left runners stranded with the bases loaded on their last at-bat, to close the game 10-1.

"Those guys had really good defense. They played great fundamentally and executed everything," said the Mission's Theis Finlev.

Johnson finish with, "We are thankful for the outside teams; without them, we wouldn't have this. This gives us hope and lets us know it's not over with. It's truly a blessing."

The May 16 game moved the Giants' record to 3-2-1. Their tie came from a strong Baron's team.



# Francisco Vargas Finds That Getting Back Into Prison Can Be as Hard as Getting Out

By Tommy Winfrey  
Arts Editor

Artist and ex-convict Francisco Vargas returned to San Quentin to talk to a group of men about his successes and failures in life. But his return to the historic prison did not go as planned.

Getting out of prison can be rather difficult; just ask any lif-

stores for rare birds and fancy pigeons,” said Vargas. His life of crime eventually led him to abusing drugs and alcohol, he said. “By 12 years old I was in juvenile hall.” Vargas’ introduction to the justice system at the age of 12 would mark the beginning of years of incarceration for him. As he put it, “I ended up in the revolving doors of the California

periods of time, Vargas said, “I knew I had to make a change. I was tired of being locked up.” He also had a wife and kid to take care of, so he started looking for work. His road to redemption was not glamorous or full of excitement. Vargas admits he spent a lot of time cleaning houses and washing windows. But the experience he got doing those jobs put him in



Vargas standing in front of his artwork called “2Blue-Marilyn”

er. For Vargas, getting back in proved just as difficult. Stopped at the gate for wearing the wrong clothes, he was denied access to the men with whom he came to share his path to redemption. Vargas started out in life with hardship. According to him, his life of crime started at age 11. Like many men who end up incarcerated, he grew up without a father in the house. Without a stable male role model, Vargas looked up to his older male cousins with whom he lived. “My older cousins would say, ‘Hey want to make more money?’ So at night we would help them break into pet

Youth Authority.” According to Vargas, his drug addiction spiraled out of control in the late 1960s, and as a result he was sent to adult prison at the age of 19 for first-degree armed robbery. The sentence of five years to life didn’t sit well with him, so he decided to make a break out of the courtroom, he said. “I picked up an additional five to six years for the escape.” The next 13 years of his life were spent in the cycle of incarceration. In 1974, he was sent to San Quentin for a parole violation hearing. After seeing friends of his locked up for long

contact with art and art lovers. “One lady I cleaned for told me how much money she spent on art and I looked at the abstract art she had and said, ‘Geesh, I could’ve painted that.’” Sometime later Vargas needed some business cards for his window washing business, and he ended up meeting an artist named Frosty the Creative Artist, who placed him on the road to realizing his dream of becoming an artist. Vargas became friends with Frosty, who not only designed business cards but also was a sign painter. It was Frosty and his wife who gave Vargas his first set of brushes.

After trying to make it as a sign painter on his own, Vargas realized he needed more skill than just raw talent. At the time there were only two schools on the West Coast that taught sign painting, one in Portland and one in Los Angeles. “I called my uncle who lived in Pico Rivera, by LA, and told him my situation. He let me stay at his home while I went to sign painting school in downtown LA, plus I got a part-time job at a sign shop (where they) knew I was a student.” During his stay with his uncle, who was a member of the Hispanic Minority Businessman Association, Vargas was invited to the Warner Brothers Studio for a luncheon. Vargas used this luncheon to make connections and ask questions. He soon found himself on the back lot of the studio in the sign department. That is also where he met actress Heather Locklear, he painted a picture of Locklear



Francisco Vargas standing in front of a stamp he painted

and met other actresses during his time in Los Angeles. But as life would have it, before Vargas could complete school, he was called back home to San Jose to take care of one of his children, who was sick. Vargas never made it back to school, but he’s been a sign painter ever since. After working many jobs in San Jose, Vargas finally got the chance to paint his first mural in a roller skating rink. He also landed a job with artist designer Paul Price, who was the art director of Great America when it opened. Vargas moved back to Fresno, a city where he spent some of his childhood. His marriage broke up after a while, but he kept his business afloat. Eventually, he says, “I think about the old sign painters back in the day who would travel painting signs from town to

follow him. This led Vargas to write for a magazine called *Sign Builders Illustrated*. Writing stories allowed him to meet people from the Walldogs. “The Walldogs are a group of sign artists and painters who take a small town and knock out 14-16 murals in a four-day span.” Working with the Walldogs has taken him all over the country painting murals, something he has been doing more and more. In 2014 Vargas started his latest project, designing and painting a mural in downtown Fresno. The mural is located on the Fresno Business Journal building and measures 125 feet long by 33 feet high. Vargas said, “It became known as the Largest Painted Mural Stamp in the United States.” He added, “It was a huge challenge but one of



Vargas presents “Harley”

town. So in ‘98 I find an RV and set it up to go across country; my goal was to go to Key West, Florida.” Vargas ended up making it to Key West with a little help from friends he met on the Internet. He wrote about the things he was doing, and people began to

the most rewarding.” The mural took Vargas five and a half months to complete with help in a few sections, but the majority of the work was done alone. Vargas’ next project in June is a mural in Delvan, Wisconsin with his Walldog partners.



Vargas standing on a ladder painting a piece called “Butterfly Lovers7”



This artwork Vargas named “Mecca”



# San Quentin News

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## Prison University Project Celebrates 9 Graduates



Photo by Leroy Lucas

Valedictorian Keung Vanh displays his diploma at PUP graduation ceremony

See, **Get On The Bus** Mother's Day and Father's Day celebration on pages 8-9. In June, **Get On The Bus** held celebrations at: San Quentin State Prison, California Men's Colony, Correctional Training Facility and Salinas Valley State Prison. Scheduled for July: Folsom State Prison, California State Prison-Sacramento and Folsom Women's Facility. For more information, visit [www.getonthebus.us](http://www.getonthebus.us).

## New York State Prison Refuses to Accept SQ News

A prison in New York State found *San Quentin News* unacceptable reading material for its inmates because the paper allegedly advocates lawlessness, violence, anarchy or rebellion against the government.

New York inmate G. Erwin, a *San Quentin News* subscriber,

received a "Sender Disapproval Notice," instead of the February 2015 edition.

The Orleans Correctional Facility in Albion, N.Y., (near Rochester) evaluated the paper and circled two reasons why it wouldn't be allowed into the prison population.

"D. Any publication which advocates and presents a clear and immediate risk of lawlessness, violence, anarchy or rebellion against the governmental authority is unacceptable."

"E. The publication should not

See NY on Page 5

## Immigration Attorney Offers Answers to Deportation Policies



Photo by Raphaelle Casale

'I feel good to fight for a person's right to stay in the United States,' said immigration lawyer Marc Van Der Hout

By Kevin D. Sawyer  
Journalism Guild Chairman

Immigration attorney Marc

Van Der Hout came to San Quentin to talk about immigration policy. For once he wasn't venturing into prison on behalf

of a client.

"Since 1996 there are groups

See Immigration on Page 4

By Juan Haines  
Managing Editor

Valedictorian Keung Vanh told a packed college graduation audience that when he came to prison 20 years ago, "I didn't even have a high school diploma."

On June 12, the standing-room-only Protestant Chapel served as an auditorium, as Vanh and eight other graduates also accepted their Associate of Arts degrees from the San Quentin Prison University Project.

In the audience were the graduates' family members, community volunteers, PUP teachers, prison administrators and fellow prisoners.

Vanh began his valedictorian speech by explaining how shyness, while growing up, made his educational journey challenging.

"Whenever my teacher asked

me to repeat something, my shyness would keep me quiet," Vanh said. "So, my third grade teacher questioned my ability to learn."

Vanh said because of his quietness he was "labeled academically challenged and sent to remedial school." The experience had a lasting effect on his self-esteem, he said.

"After awhile I began believing this; then I started falling behind," he said. "By the time I reached high school, I had new challenges — gang violence, which caused me to be kicked out of school three times."

Vanh said his troubled life included committing criminal acts that led to imprisonment at age 16.

"When I first came to prison, I was locked in a cell 23 hours a day," he said. "Then I began learning when a teacher came

See PUP on Page 12-13

## Warriors Compete Against Prisoners During NBA Finals

By Rahsaan Thomas  
Sports Editor

In the midst of NBA finals, Golden State Warriors General Manager Bob Myers and assistant GM Kirk Lacob played some basketball on their own against the San Quentin Warriors. Myers played for the Green Team and led with 26 points and 23 rebounds in their 85-79 victory.

"I think it (coming into San Quentin) shows that we care and that people are people no matter what station you are in life," said Myers.

It was June 6, the day before game two of the Golden State Warriors NBA finals against the Cleveland Cavaliers and the biggest moment for the Warriors in 40 years—the last time they reached the finals.

"When I play basketball, I forget about everything else. It's a good release for my mind," said Myers.

"Basketball is my calm place, my happy place," added Lacob. "Playing hard is a release from life. When I play basketball, I don't have to worry about anything except what's happening here on the court."

It was a sunny day with a strong breeze that didn't seem to hamper jump shots. The S.Q. Warriors came out in the first quarter with great energy and got off to a 4-0 run, then Myers nailed three-pointers back-to-



Photo by Krissi Khokhobashvili

Coach Daniel Wright (left) greets Bob Myers before the game

back, taking the lead and setting the tone.

"I didn't have to do a lot — just get the ball to Bob," said Evan Fjelds.

Ben Illegbodun defied the wind

See Warriors on Page 23



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The San Quentin News encourages inmates, free staff, custody staff, volunteers and others outside the institution to submit articles. All submissions become property of the San Quentin News. Please use the following criteria when submitting:

- Limit your articles to no more than 350 words.
- Know that articles will be edited for content and length.
- The newspaper is not a medium to file grievances. (For that, use the prison appeals process.) We encourage submitting articles that are newsworthy and encompass issues that will have an impact on the prison populace.
- Please do not use offensive language in your submissions.
  - Poems and art work (cartoons and drawings) are welcomed.
- Letters to the editor should be short and to the point.

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# 49ers' Chaplain Earl Smith And Players Tour San Quentin



Photo by Leroy Lucas

Pastor Earl Smith (Niners Hoodie) walking with several 49er players including Tony Jerod-Eddie, Joe Looney, Torrey Smith (Black V-Neck T-shirt) and San Quentin inmates after touring South Block Dining Hall

By Rahsaan Thomas  
Sports Editor

San Francisco 49ers Chaplain Earl Smith returned recently to San Quentin with 44 members of the football organization.

"There is a thin line between players and inmates. You have a number and they have a number. What can we do to make a difference for both sides?" said Smith about why he brings the players into the prison.

Smith is a former San Quentin Protestant chaplain.

He has brought 49ers into the prison for over 15 years and 49er legend Keena Turner has accompanied him on about seven occasions.

The pastor started the IMPACT program inside San Quentin and is teaching those same principles to the professional football players.

IMPACT stands for Incarcerated Men Putting Away Childish Things. It teaches that the male role belief system taught in the ghetto is wrong and IMPACT replaces the false beliefs with a positive way of thinking.

The June 3 tour started with the Niners being greeted by inmates Tommy Winfrey, John Windham, Clay Thompson, Adnan Khan, Leroy Lucas, Azraal "Big AZ" Ford, Sam Johnson, Miguel Quezada, Joey Mason, John Vaden, G. Lumumba Edwards, Curtis "Wall Street" Carroll and Upu Ama.

Winfrey told the visitors about the realities of prison life and then everyone broke into separate groups for discussions.

Rookie quarterback Dylan Thompson, a former South Carolina Gamecock, said, "It's cool that inmates still see value in people. Society sees you as outcasts. You could have chosen to say, 'Screw it,' but you chose to make the best of it."

Turner said, "It's impactful that you guys share your experiences honestly with our guys. It gives us a chance to have a different perspective. Right after the tours, we have an open discussion about the visit to understand how life really is the choices that come down to a moment and their consequences."

For the rookies, coming in was a mandatory part of trying out for the Niners. How-

ever, several active players and coaches volunteered to join the tour.

Niner guard and center Joe Looney heard about how impactful the experience is from his brother James Looney, who plays football for the University of California, Berkeley. The Cal Bear came in a few weeks before as part of the SQUIRES program, which offers a similar tour.

"A lot of guys here are real cool and they're getting their lives together and making a change at the prison," Joe's brother told him. Joe said he agrees now.

Torrey Smith, who was a Raven for four years, is now a Niner. He came in for the experience and to "put some smiles on people's faces and be a light."

As he toured the Prison Industry Authority section of the prison where mattresses are made, he made a few fans' that day.

"Torrey Smith! You stopped my Steelers from winning. You are awesome," said an inmate.

Current Niner Tony Jerod-Eddie said he came in because, "This is real close to home. I have a lot of people in the system and I wanted to see what it's like inside."

Thomas McGaughey, a former Eagle and Bengal, is now coaching for the 49ers.

He came in "just for the experience and to see the famous San Quentin. It's not often you get to visit a historic landmark."

After leaving PIA, the Niners walked the yard, greeting fans, then toured the reception center and adsege upper yard.

Public Information Officer Lt. Sam Robinson led the tour into the South dining hall where he pointed out secrets the art murals there hold, like a hidden demon, and how the pictures seem to change direction when looked at from different perspectives.

"I learned a lot of history and those drawings stuck with me," said Michael Davis, a rookie from South Carolina.

By the end of the day, the Niners reported learning a lot.

Issac Blakeney (Duke University) said, "People try guys with high profile status at clubs. Seeing the other side of bad consequence is a reminder to swallow my pride and keep it moving.

It's not worth it."

"My dad has been to prison. Seeing how small the cells are puts things in perspective. I don't see how ya'll do it," said rookie safety Jaquiski Tarrt from Samford University.

Rookie Bradley Pinion, an NFL fifth-round draft pick from Clemson University, said, "I learn from ya'll as much as ya'll learn from me."

"I don't place judgment on people because they made a mistake," said Torrey Smith.

"I don't want to come here (to prison). Seeing this place cemented that for me," said Trent Brown, a rookie form the University of Florida.

The players had something to teach inmates too.

DeAndre Campbell, an Oakland native and rookie from the University of Washington, credits staying out of trouble to "staying busy and understanding that nothing good could come from what some of my classmates were doing. I've seen some of them die."

"The league is a business. Everybody is competing for the same job and if you get it, somebody gets cut," said Dres Anderson, a rookie from the Utah Utes. The wide receiver has a major in mass communication and plans to be a sportscaster after his last football reception.

For Tarrt, listening kept him out of trouble. "My dad told me that (selling drugs) wasn't the way to go," said Tarrt.

Jim Tomsula, the new Niners' head coach, couldn't make it.

"He's mad he couldn't come. He got stuck in meetings with some big wigs. He wanted to be here," said assistant coach Ryan Cordell.

Other members of the Niners who visited included:

Dr. Harry Edwards (49er staffer), Pat Miller (Auburn), Marcus Rush (Michigan State), Trent Brown (Florida), T.C. McCartney (coach), Blake Bell (Oklahoma), Ian Silberman (Boston College and NFL 6<sup>th</sup> draft round pick), DeAndre Campbell (University of Washington), DeAndrew White (University of Alabama), James Hall (director of player engagement), Buster Anderson (South Carolina), DeAndre Smelter (Georgia Tech), Jermaine Whitehead (Auburn), and Eric Wolford (coach).



# L.A. Mental Health Strategy Looks to Lower Jail Population

By Lee Jaspar  
Journalism Guild Writer

The national movement to ward alternatives to jail programs for people with mental illness was implemented late last year in Los Angeles County. The pilot program could dramatically change the landscape of the local justice and jail systems, said Karen Tamis of the Vera Institute of Justice, in a *Los Angeles Times* article. “Los Angeles County has a real problem with people with mental health issues in the jail system,” Tamis said. “This

could have a very significant impact on the jail population as a whole.” “This is not a specialty court,” Los Angeles County Supervisor Zev Yaroslavsky told reporter Marisa Gerber. “It’s a new template.” Judge Steve Leifman, who helped start the Criminal Mental Health Project in Florida, said when the program started in 2000 the recidivism rate for low-level misdemeanor offenders with mental illness was 72 percent. Now it is down to 20 percent. The Miami-Dade plan,

which included training thousands of police officers on how to deal with people who have mental illnesses, cut the local jail population nearly in half, and allowed the county to close one of its facilities, Gerber reported. “It’s time to stop bouncing people who are mentally ill and genuinely sick between the streets and our jails,” said Los Angeles District Attorney Jackie Lacey. “This is an unconscionable waste of human life and money.” Getting prosecutors on board is often one of the biggest ob-



Political leaders: Zev Yaroslavsky and Judge Steve Leifman advocate for more mental health programs

stacles, said Leifman. “With her (Lacey) buying in to this, it makes it so much more likely to succeed.” The program requires eligible defendants with serious mental health issues to go through

a series of assessments and be paired with a case worker at San Fernando Valley Community Mental Health Center. The program’s participants will then be placed in transitional housing, reported Gerber.

# New Law Would Restore Voting Rights to Ex-Felons

By John Lam  
Journalism Guild Writer

Congress is considering legislation to restore federal voting rights to former prisoners. “The right to vote is the most

basic constitutive act of citizenship,” according to the measure, SB 772, introduced March 18 and referred to the Committee on the Judiciary. “An estimated 5,850,000 citizens of the United States, or

about 1 in 40 adults in the United States, currently cannot vote as a result of a felony conviction. Of the 5,850,000 citizens barred from voting, only 25 percent are in prison,” the bill states. The measure also says state disenfranchisement laws disproportionately impact racial and ethnic minorities. “Given current rates of incarceration, approximately one in three of the next generation of African-American men will be disenfranchised at some point during their lifetime,” the bill states. The bill titled “Democracy Restoration Act of 2015” says its purpose is “To secure the federal voting rights of persons when released from incarceration.”

The drafters of the bill stated that “disenfranchising citizens who have been convicted of a criminal offense and who are living and working in the community serves no compelling state interest and hinders their rehabilitation and reintegration into society.” Various states have their own rules regarding disenfranchisement. Only two states do not disenfranchise individuals with criminal convictions (Maine and Vermont). In the 48 other states, citizens in some states may easily regain the right to vote, and in some others, the right to vote can be restored only through a pardon from their state governor. In 11 states a conviction can result in

permanent disenfranchisement. “In six states – Alabama, Florida, Kentucky, Mississippi, Tennessee, and Virginia – more than 7 percent of the total population is disenfranchised,” the bill states. If this bill survives through both houses of Congress and is signed into law by the president, then it would provide uniform relief to disenfranchised citizens and restore their right to vote in federal elections, but not for state or local elections. [On a June 19 visit to San Quentin News Office Congresswoman, Jackie Speier, (D) 14th U.S. Congressional District, said she supports this Bill. See, August edition for full story on Speier’s visit.]

# Combined Systems Approach Helps The Newly Released

By Isaiah Thompson-Bonilla  
Journalism Guild Writer

Transitional planning for newly released inmates is essential to address mental health and associated disorders using a cross-systems approach. Samhsa’s Gains Center for Behavior Health and Justice Transformation released a report last November that emphasized the necessity of combining criminal justice and behavioral health treatment interventions. The collaborative focus will assist in the fight to reduce recidivism and promote recovery. The report, “Guidelines for the Successful Transition of People with Behavioral Health Disorders from Jail and Prison,” was developed to assist corrections professionals and mental health professionals. The Behavioral Health Framework produced a paradigm that categorizes and identifies the subgroups in our society based strictly on behavioral health and criminogenic needs. The report emphasized that in order to create a realistic opportunity for a successful re-entry, behavioral health, corrections and community corrections agencies must become partners.

A plan for state and local levels of government to interact on this endeavor was based on the following principles: assessing, planning, identifying and coordinating. 1. Assessing the individual’s clinical and social needs, and public safety risk 2. Plan for the treatment and services required to address the individual’s needs 3. Identify required community and correctional programs responsible for post-release services 4. Coordinate the transition plan to ensure implementation and avoid gaps in care with community-based services Each of these principles addresses an area of importance in the fight against recidivism. They also act as guides to evidence-based transitional planning. The report concluded that, “applying these principles, state and local policymakers and behavioral health and criminal justice practitioners can promote the development of effective transition and reentry practices for individuals with behavioral health disorders who are involved in the criminal justice system.”

# Health Inspection Reveals Unsanitary Prison in Southern CA

*‘In the kitchen, raw chicken was stored above cooked halal chicken for Muslim inmates’*

By Thomas Gardner  
Journalism Guild Writer

A Southern California prison has numerous unsanitary conditions, a health inspection disclosed. Dozens of violations were reported at the California Rehabilitation Center (CRC) in Norco. They include standing water, cockroach infestations, rodent droppings and wastewater not draining, the *Reuters* news agency reported. The findings are reported in a 109-page report obtained by Reuters under a Public Records Act request. The report was prepared as a regular review of prison facilities.

There was no hot water in bathroom sinks, and the dishwashers did not reach the temperature required to ensure sanitation, the report added. “In the kitchen, raw chicken was stored above cooked halal chicken for Muslim inmates, raising the risk that the raw meat could drip onto the cooked food and contaminate it,” *Reuters* reported. State Sen. Loni Hancock, D-Berkeley, called the report “shocking,” and urged closure of the 100-year-old facility, *Reuters* reported. CRC houses 2,400 inmates and is considered by the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation

(CDCR) as necessary bed space to accommodate its overcrowded prison population, *Reuters* reported. CDCR spokesperson Deborah Hoffman told *Reuters* that steps are being taken to improve the facilities’ infrastructure issues and other conditions. Before becoming a prison, the facility was a naval hospital. Before that, it was a lakeside resort, having originally opened in 1928, according to *Reuters*. There have been earlier plans to close CRC, but the federal court order to relieve overcrowding has prevented that from happening, Hoffman said.

# States Got \$278.4 Million in Federal Funds to Fight Crime in 2013

By Salvador Solorio  
Journalism Guild Writer

The federal government provided \$278.4 million in special grants in 2013 to fight crime in states, territories and the District of Columbia, the U.S. Department of Justice reports. The Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant program (JAG) uses a formula-

based award system for law enforcement, prosecution, courts and other crime-affiliated programs. Local governments received \$88.4 million while states received \$183.1 million. The determinate for local allocations was based upon proportions of the state’s three-year violent crime average. The congressionally mandated formula allocates half of the

funds based on a state’s or territory’s share of violent crime and half of the funds based on population. California accounts for 12.96 percent of the nation’s total population and received \$30.8 million. A smaller state such as Vermont accounts for less than 1 percent of the nation’s total crime and 2 percent of

the nation’s population. Vermont received approximately \$366,000. California has \$12.3 million set aside for local awards based on its three-year violent crime averages of 161,997 crimes. Each crime was valued at \$76.13. Vermont got \$278,392 for 623 crimes, or \$446.86 per crime. The city of Oakland has a

three-year average of 6,570 violent crimes, or 4.1 percent of all violent crimes in California. It is eligible for about \$500,000 (6,570.67 multiplied by \$76.13). JAG awards may also be used for crime prevention, corrections, drug treatment, technology improvement and crime victim and witness programs.



# Abogado de Inmigración Comparte Respuestas A Preguntas sobre Polízas de Deportación

Por Kevin Sawyer  
Presidente del Gremio Periodístico  
Traducción Miguel Quezada

El abogado de inmigración Mark Van Der Hout experimento lo que es estar dentro de una prisión por primera vez y no fue por ir a visitar alguno de sus clientes.

“Desde el año 1996 han existido diversos grupos que han tratado de remendar la reforma migratoria ‘96’ que el (presidente) Clinton no prohibiría,” en el mes de Mayo, el abogado Van Der Hout le comento a los prisioneros de San Quentin. “Antes del año 1996 era usual recibir un alivio discrecional.”

El abogado Van Der Hout fue acompañado por el abogado de defensa Dan Barton. “La ayuda de un abogado de inmigración es esencial para el abogado de defensa criminal, cuando el cliente es un inmigrante enfrentando la posibilidad de deportación,” Barton comento. “Primeramente un abogado debe darse cuenta que su cliente es un inmigrante ilegal en los Estados Unidos.”

El abogado Van Der Hout menciona, “me da gusto pelear por los derechos que tiene una persona, para que pueda quedarse en los Estados Unidos.”

Además dijo que el Dream Act (La proposición para Los Senadores) hubiera ayudado a muchos jóvenes inmigrantes a posponer su posible deportación, añadiendo que cuando el congreso no aprobó la reforma migratoria, el Presidente Obama comenzó el programa DACA (que es una acción para posponer la llegada de niños). En respuesta, los Republicanos en 26 estados pusieron una demanda buscando obtener un alivio para bloquear el programa.



Photo by Raphaelle Casale

‘Me siento bien pelear por el derecho para que una persona se quede en los Estados Unidos,’ dijo abogado de inmigración Marc Van Der Hout

La demanda, de acuerdo con el abogado Van Der Hout, fue estratégicamente presentada frente a una Corte de Distrito en los Estados Unidos en donde la decisión sería predecible, incluyendo también el resultado de una apelación en la Corte de Apelación de los Estados Unidos, en el Quinto Distrito. Una orden de la corte es efectiva hasta que la Corte Suprema de los Estados Unidos llegue a una decisión sobre si el estado tiene el poder suficiente para detener un programa federal.

Otros problemas que enfrentan los inmigrantes en los Estados Unidos fueron también discutidos, incluyendo el procesamiento por terrorismo.

El abogado Van Der Hout comento que “el terrorismo, de acuerdo a las leyes de inmigración, puede ser algo tan simple como pretender tirar una piedra en contra de un edificio.”

El grupo de ‘Los Angeles Eight’ (Los Ocho de Los Angeles) era integrado por miembros Palestinos de PFLP (El Frente

Popular para la Liberación de Palestina), acusados de apoyar materialmente al terrorismo al “distribuir periódicos que abogaban una ideología comunista,” comento el abogado. Van Der Hout represento a este grupo en un caso de ‘acusación selectiva’.

El abogado Van Der Hout dijo que los inmigrantes no pueden clamar una defensa de ‘acusación selectiva’ a lo que el abogado cuestiono el porque los Estados Unidos no estaban levantando cargos en contra de los Cubanos y Afghanistanos que están peleando constantemente por el comunismo. El caso fue presentado a la Suprema Corte de los Estados Unidos la cual tomo una decisión, después de 22 años, a favor de los acusados.

La Acción de los Refugiados requiere que todos los refugiados sean tratados igualmente. Debido a que los Estados Unidos no apoyo la guerra en El Salvador ni en Guatemala en los años ochentas, el abogado, Van Der Hout, comento que más de un 90 por ciento de los refugiados que

buscaban asilo político, fueron negados.

Debido a que Estados Unidos apoyo la guerra en Nicaragua en aquel entonces, de acuerdo a Van Der Hout, fue considerado como un trato preferencial ya que le otorgo asilo político a la mayoría de refugiados de ese país lo cual fue una acción discriminatoria.

El abogado Van Der Hout presento una demanda de clase social en contra del gobierno Americano. El abogado comento que el caso fue finalmente resuelto después de cinco años por lo cual el gobierno se vio obligado a reajustar todos los casos de los inmigrantes de Guatemala y El Salvador.

Un discurso corto fue emitido sobre las tres agencias que reemplazaron el INS (El Servicio de Inmigración y Naturalización) después del 11 de Septiembre del 2001 explicando que los Servicios de Ciudadanía e Inmigración (Citizenship and Immigration Services CIS), los Servicios de Aduana y Patrulla Fronteriza (Customs and Bor-

der Patrol CBP), y los Servicios de Inmigración y de Control de Aduana (Immigration and Customs Enforcement ICE); todos están bajo el control del Departamento de Seguridad de la Patria de los Estados Unidos (Department of Homeland Security DHS).

“Felonía Agravada’ se a convertido en un chiste,” dijo Van Der Hout, explicando que antes había un termino descriptivo de crímenes tales como asesinato y la violación pero hoy incluye ofensas como robo; hasta crímenes que no conllevan tiempo en la cárcel. El dijo que hoy todos los crímenes definidos como felonías agravadas pueden resultar en la deportación, hasta para un residente legal.”

“¿Como describirías mejor el nexo entre políticas migratorias y el encarcelamiento masivo? Pregunto el reo Tommy Gardner.

“Es una buena pregunta,” dijo Van Der Hout, “el numero de personas detenidas por la inmigración es diez veces mayor.” El dijo que la encarcelación de inmigrantes ha aumentado dramáticamente, también incluyo que hay muchos con derechos de asilo político legítimos.

“Muchas cárceles locales han negado cumplir las detenciones del ICE,” dijo Van Der Hout. “California coopera con ICE.” También dijo que una condena de cárcel de un año puede llevar a la deportación de un inmigrante, pero una condena de 364 días o menos los permite quedarse en el país.

Un reo pregunto, “¿Cuanto tiempo tiene la inmigración para recogerse después de cumplir la condena?” De acuerdo a Van Der Hout, “Tienen 48 horas.”

James King, Salvador Solorio, Chung Kao, y James Abernathy contribuyeron en esta historia.

## Immigration Lawyer Informs Inmates About Deportation Issues

Continued from Page 1

trying to ‘fix ‘96,’ the immigration reform that (President Bill) Clinton would not veto,” Van Der Hout told inmates at San Quentin in May. “Before 1996, you could usually get discretionary relief.”

Defense attorney Dan Barton accompanied Van Der Hout. “The assistance of an immigration attorney is essential to a criminal defense attorney when the client is an immigrant facing the possibility of deportation,” said Barton. “An attorney must first realize their client is an immigrant.”

“I feel good to fight for a person’s right to stay in the United States,” said Van Der Hout.

He said the Dream Act would have helped many young immigrants by deferring deportation, adding that when Congress failed to pass immigration reform, President Obama started the deferred action childhood arrivals (DACA) program. In response, Republicans in 26 states filed suit seeking injunctive relief to block the program.

The suit, according to Van Der Hout, was strategically filed in a U.S. District Court in Texas, where the ruling would be predictable, including the outcome on appeal in the U.S. Court of Appeals, 8th Circuit. An injunction remains in effect until the U.S. Supreme Court rules on whether a state can stop a federal program.

Other issues that immigrants encounter in the United States were discussed, including prosecution for terrorism.

“Terrorism under immigration law could be as minimal as threatening to throw a rock at a building,” said Van Der Hout.

The “Los Angeles Eight” were Palestinian members of the PFLP (Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine) accused of materially supporting terrorism by “distributing newspapers that advocated communist ideology,” said Van Der Hout. He represented them in a “selective prosecution” case.

Van Der Hout said immigrants cannot raise a “selective prosecution” defense, but he challenged it because the U.S.



Photo by Raphaelle Casale

Jose Camacho discusses immigration with Dan Barton

was not prosecuting Cubans and Afghanis fighting communism. The case went to the U.S. Supreme Court and was decided in favor of the defendants, after 22 years.

The Refugee Act requires all refugees to be treated equally, he said. Because the U.S. did not support the war in El Salvador and Guatemala in the 1980s, Van Der Hout said over 90 percent of refugees seeking political asylum from those countries

were denied.

U.S. support for the war in Nicaragua at the time, according to Van Der Hout, gave preferential treatment – asylum – to most refugees from that country, which he said was discriminatory.

Van Der Hout filed a class-action lawsuit against the U.S. government. He said the case was settled after five years and the government had to re-adjudicate Guatemalan and El Salvadoran immigrants’ cases.

A short discourse ensued on the three agencies that replaced the INS (Immigration and Naturalization Service). After Sept. 11, 2001, he explained, the Citizenship and Immigration Services (CIS), Customs and Border Patrol (CBP), and Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE); all fall under the Department of Homeland Security.

“Aggravated felony’ has become a joke,” said Van Der Hout, explaining how it used to be a term delineating crimes such as murder and rape but now encompasses theft offenses – even those that carry no jail time. He

said now all crimes defined as an aggravated felony can lead to deportation, even for a legal resident.

“How would you best describe the nexus between our immigration policies and mass incarceration?” asked inmate Tommy Gardner.

“It’s a good question and correct to ask,” said Van Der Hout. “The number of people detained for immigration is tenfold.” He said incarceration of immigrants is up dramatically, adding that there are many with legitimate political asylum claims.

“A lot of local jails have refused to honor ICE holds,” said Van Der Hout. “California cooperates with ICE.” He also said a one-year sentence in jail can lead to an immigrant’s deportation, but a sentence of 364 days or less allows them to stay in the country.

One inmate asked, “How long after a sentence is completed does immigration have to pick you up?” According to Van Der Hout, “They have 48 hours.”

–James King, Salvador Solorio, Chung Kao, and James Abernathy contributed to this story.



# 5 Criminal Justice Experts Offer Ideas On Prison Population and Public Safety



Lenore Anderson

By Anouthinh Pangthong  
Journalism Guild Writer

Five criminal justice experts weighed in on suggestions California should pursue to reduce prison populations and improve public safety.

The article suggests California can learn from other states, including Texas, Illinois and Washington.

Lenore Anderson is executive director of Californians for Safety and Justice, a group described as “a nonprofit working to reduce over-incarceration with common-sense solutions that improve public safety and reduce taxpayer costs.”

Discussing Texas and its investment in health solutions, Anderson wrote, “One key lesson to learn from Texas’ success is their investment in health solutions for the health problems that many incarcerated people share: substance abuse disorders and mental illness.”

The recidivism rate for people who participated in Texas’ drug court was nearly eight times



Nazgol Ghandnoosh

lower than defendants who had not.

By addressing these issues, Texas has seen serious and violent crime decrease 12.8 percent since 2003. When a prison was closed, credit went to the successful investment in treating mental illness and substance abuse.

Nazgol Ghandnoosh, Ph.D., suggests eliminating the California governor’s power to nullify paroles granted by a state parole board. Ghandnoosh is a research analyst at the nonprofit group The Sentencing Project.

“Twenty years ago, Texas amended its constitution to end gubernatorial parole review. It’s well past time for California to depoliticize parole,” Ghandnoosh wrote.

California is one of five states that continue to allow governors to review parole suitability granted by the parole board. Prior to Gov. Jerry Brown, an average of 4 percent of lifers were granted parole.

Lois M. Davis suggests California follow the state of Wash-



Lois M. Davis

ington’s example of focusing on rehabilitation. She is a senior policy researcher for the nonprofit, nonpartisan RAND Corp.

“California took a bold step in implementing the Public Safety Realignment Act. Now it should move beyond Realignment to focus on rehabilitation,” Davies wrote.

Its rehabilitation focus has helped Washington reduce its recidivism rate by an expected 6.3 percent, on average. Alternative rehabilitative services refer offenders to treatment programs, allowing prison to become the last resort.

“RAND’s recent national study on correctional education shows that adult offenders who participated in prison education programs reduced their risk of recidivating by 43 percent and that every \$1 invested in these programs resulted in about \$4-\$5 in savings in re-incarceration costs,” Davis said.

Nicole Fortier recommends California consider using funding to shape a better prison sys-



Nicole Fortier

tem. She is counsel in the Brennan Center for Justice at the New York University School of Law.

“A ‘Success-Oriented Funding’ model is a simple, yet effective approach: Lay out clear priorities for what taxpayer dollars should accomplish, then tie funding directly to achievement of those priorities,” Fortier wrote.

“The concept is simple: Fund what works to reduce crime and incarceration, and dump what doesn’t,” she said.

Illinois and New York City have adopted such a model, she added. The (California) Legislature “could provide additional funding – found within prison cost savings – to prosecutors’ offices that recommend alternatives to incarceration or to law enforcement agencies that issue citations in lieu of arrests.

“This could move California toward a smaller prison population and a more effective, socially beneficial, and efficient criminal justice system.”

Lateefah Simon recommends California follow the lead of



Lateefah Simon

other states in reducing incarceration for low-level offenders. Simon, the program director for the Rosenberg Foundation, makes three recommendations:

1. Shift the “incarceration only” approach to invest in evidence-based alternatives that can reduce crime and racial injustice in the system.

2. Make reentry of prisoners a priority. Eliminate reentry barriers and invest in rehabilitation and critical support needed to help formerly incarcerated people live meaningful, productive lives, and keep them out of prison in the first place.

3. Build a broad-based coalition to champion change. This includes education, health, the economy, businesses and law enforcement.

“Cages can’t create safe and healthy communities,” Simon said. “Criminal justice reform is one of the leading civil rights issues of our time, and we must turn around the legacy of failed policies that are costing us not just dollars but also precious human potential.”

## Millions Affected by Substance Abuse, Mental Health Issues

By Salvador Solorio  
Journalism Guild Writer

Drug use and mental health issues affect millions of adolescents and adults, according to the September 2014 National Survey on Drug Use and Health (NSDUH) by the Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration.

Persons 12 years and older, who were not institutionalized, were polled on illicit drug use, alcohol use, substance abuse treatment and reasons for not receiving treatment.

In 2013, an estimated 24.6 million individuals aged 12 or older were current (within the

past month) illicit drug users. In 2013, 60.1 million individuals were binge drinkers, including 1.6 million adolescents. Of an estimated 22.7 million who needed treatment for an illicit drug or alcohol use problem, only about 2.5 million received treatment at a specialty facility.

About 1 in 10 (10.7 percent) adolescents had a Major Depressive Episode (MDE) during the past year. Just 38.1 percent of those adolescents received treatment or counseling for depression.

In 2013, nearly one in five adults 18 years and older had a mental illness, 4.2 percent had a serious mental illness and 3.9

percent had serious thoughts of suicide.

The administration asked respondents about their illicit drug use in the 30 days before the interview. Illicit drugs included marijuana, cocaine, inhalants, hallucinogens, heroin and prescription-type drug abuse. An estimated 24.6 million Americans were current illicit drug abusers. Use of prescription drug abuse came second after marijuana at 9.4 percent.

More than half of Americans aged 12 or older were current alcohol users. Nearly one quarter (22.9 percent) were binge drinkers (60.1 million). Heavy drink-

ing was reported by 6.3 percent of the population (16.5 million).

Of adolescents aged 12 to 17, 11.6 percent were current alcohol users; 1.6 million reported binge drinking.

In 2013, almost 23 million had a Substance Use Disorder in need of treatment. An estimated 2.5 million received treatment at a specialty facility. This means over 20 million individuals did not receive treatment.

Reasons for not receiving treatment were (1) no health coverage or could not afford cost (37.3 percent), (2) not ready to stop, (3) did not know where to go for treatment, (4) health coverage, (5) no

transportation.

NSDUH estimates 43.8 million suffered any mental illness and 10 million were of serious mental illness. Suicide was contemplated by 9.3 million.

Of the 2.6 million adolescents in 2013 with MDE, 977,000 received treatment for depression. In 2013 34.6 million aged 18 or older had received mental health care during the past 12 months.

The administration stated health treatment is important to facilitate recovery. Treatment or counseling can also decrease risk of relapse and promote recovery and remission of mental disorders.

## New York State Prison Screens Out *San Quentin News*

*Continued from Page 1*

incite disobedience towards law enforcement officers or prison personnel. ‘Incite disobedience,’ for purposes of this guideline, means to advocate, expressly or by clear implication, acts of disobedience.”

The notice didn’t indicate which news stories they viewed as violating their standards. However, an article about the New York City Rikers Island jail on page 4 of the February 2015 issue reported on findings by the U.S. Justice Department that correctional officers systematically abused adolescent inmates on

Rikers Island.

“We conclude that there is a pattern and practice of conduct at Rikers that violates the constitutional rights of adolescent inmates,” the Aug. 4, 2014, Department of Justice report stated. “In particular, we find that adolescent inmates at Rikers are not adequately protected from harm, including serious physical harm from the rampant use of unnecessary and excessive force by DOC (Department of Corrections) staff.”

The article also mentioned steps taken to solve the abuse problems on Rikers and recommendations on more measures

that the New York Department of Corrections should take. No specific officers or incidents were written about.

Coincidentally, the February issue contained an article advising those protesting the killing of an unarmed Black man in Ferguson, M.O., to follow the non-violent principles of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. It was part of Watani Stiner’s regular OG Perspective column on page 13.

There was also a story on page 8 about a Muslim who found out he is housed in the same prison as a Christian man who murdered his uncle. The Muslim chose to forgive the reformed man instead

of seeking revenge.

“I could not deny the favor of forgiveness that God has given me. So, when it came to my brother, Holloway, I looked him in the eye and told him that I forgive him,” Isaiah “Abdul Raheem” Thompson-Bonilla told Derrick Holloway, the man who killed his uncle.

“They didn’t read it,” said Lt. Sam Robinson, the San Quentin Public Information Officer when shown the “Sender Disapproval Notice” from the New York prison. The lieutenant reads each issue of the *San Quentin News* prior to publication to check for articles that might involve prison

security concerns. The February issue would not have been cleared if he had any such concerns.

Indeed, had the New York authorities read the *San Quentin News* in its entirety, they would have seen that the newspaper promotes rehabilitation and peaceful ways to resolve conflicts. These articles that inspire hope in prisoners should not have been rejected in order to suppress information about the Justice Department’s report.

Censorship cannot hide the realities of abuses from inmates who have experienced them firsthand.

—Rahsaan Thomas



# San Quentin News ‘Moves Forward’

## EDITORIAL

By Arnulfo T. Garcia  
Editor-in-Chief

In 2008 Warden Robert Ayers removed *San Quentin News* from the shelf, dusted it off and put the responsibility of managing the newspaper in the hands of a group of inmates advised by retired professional journalists.

In our previous editorial, Steve McNamara wrote about the history of *SQ News* and how it was revived. What you didn't read about were the dreams that the inmate staff has to expand the newspaper to nationwide circulation.

The inmate staff is aware of the many challenges they would face to fulfill this endeavor. Nevertheless, they have stayed true to their vision. It has been an enormous challenge to implement these commitments while working with the administration to further our goal. *SQ News* wants the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation (CDCR) to become fully acquainted with our ambitious plans.

We have evidence that our newspaper attracts attention throughout the California prison system and we think it is important to make the newspaper accessible to every prisoner in the state of California.

Our purpose is to educate the inmate population about rehabilitation and changes in criminal justice policies that affect them and their families. Conscious of that obligation, we have prepared a mission statement that reflects our goal.

Our Mission Statement: “We strive to report on forward-thinking approaches in criminal justice policies that support changes in prisoners’ behavior, particularly through rehabilitative efforts.” Our aim is to heighten social awareness that the incarcerated person has something to offer the community.

Since its renaissance, *San Quentin News* has gained the positive attention of the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation (CDCR), where the newspaper is recognized as an official media outlet.

In 2012, Dr. William Drummond from UC Berkeley’s School of Journalism was asked to teach a Patten University class at the prison. When he became aware of the *San Quentin News* he immediately expressed an interest in working with the newspaper.

The following semester, Drummond brought in some of his UC students, who sat with our writers and helped develop stories. The students were so impressed with the results of these efforts that many of them returned for a second semester.

Six semesters later, visits by Drummond’s journalism students are a regular part of the newspaper. Students eagerly register for his class, wanting

to become a partner in the *San Quentin News* vision.

Dr. Drummond realized that in order for *SQ News* to meet its goal of putting a newspaper in the hands of every prisoner in CDCR, the staff would require guidance from business professionals.

Professor Drummond helped us broaden our vision by introducing our news program to the Haas School of Business at UC Berkeley. In 2013, a group of Master of Business Administration (MBA) students from the UC Berkeley Haas School of Business began meeting regularly with the *SQ News* staff to plan how to move the newspaper forward.

After weeks of interviewing, evaluating and assessing the feasibility of growing a small newspaper’s operation into a medium-size publication, the MBA students developed a business plan that outlines how *SQ News* could expand circulation to reach every California prisoner within 12 years.

The project was led by Jon Spurlock, MBA. Once the San Quentin Haas Project Report was completed, he assumed a continuing role as a business adviser to *SQ News*. His knowledge of business development provides direction on constructing an organization that will diversify and expand its efforts. The newspaper’s internal operation is being morphed to handle future growth. We want our supporters to think of this metamorphosis as analogous to that of a caterpillar and a butterfly.

Within a short time, the *SQ News* has attracted the attention of major media outlets such as the *LA Times*, *New York Times*, *Washington Post* and *CNN*. In 2014 *SQ News* won a James Madison Freedom of Information Award from the Society of Professional Journalists for “excellence in journalism under extraordinary circumstances.”

With assistance from Spurlock and Jen Lyons of Patten University, *SQ News* may be able to reach its goal in 10 years and reaching the goal in 15 years would still be considered successful. Of course, *SQ News*’ ability to grow depends foremost on the cooperation from the administration at San Quentin and CDCR Sacramento.

Paul Cobb, publisher and editor of *Post News Group*, an Oakland-based news group, was introduced to *SQ News* staff in 2014 and agreed to support the newspaper development. Cobb has also arranged to publish some of our articles in *Post News Group* papers to expand *SQ News* reader base.

The newspaper’s expansion in the seven years since its revival in 2008 has been impressive. It is now read in 21 of the 34 state’s prisons and has a goal to give every prisoner in the system access to the *San Quentin News*.

For the *SQ News* to expand its



File photo

Harry Legrand, Vice Chancellor for student affairs, at Berkeley presents William Drummond with the Chancellor’s award



Photo by Sam Heames

Felicia Gaston, community organizer and Paul Cobb, *Post News Group* in the *SQ News* office

reader base, we must continue to raise the necessary funds. It is important for all financial supporters, subscribers and readers to understand that the path of success will not come easy.

*SQ News*’ supporters past, present and future also should know that this prison newspaper operates without financial support from the state of California.

As one of the only prisoner-run newspapers in the country, if not the world, we strive to be on the leading edge of prison innovation. We want to lead by example. We want for our fellow prisoners what we want for ourselves. That is, the ability to enhance ourselves with knowledge and embrace truth so that we, too, see our future.



File photo

Adviser Jennifer Lyons



File photo

Adviser Jon Spurlock



# Capturing the Stories of 1,000 Jailed Juveniles

## Kid CAT Speaks!

By John Lam  
Journalism Guild Writer

An unassuming “gentle giant,” Richard Ross is a photojournalist who spent five years traveling 30 states to interview more than 1,000 incarcerated youths in the U. S. He captured pictures and stories that he has published in a book called “Juvenile In Justice.”

“At the outset of this project I wanted to give a voice to those with the least amount of authority in any U.S. confinement system...These are stories of young lives reduced to a paragraph of information. What they have in common is poverty, violence and a diminished view of the possibilities that the world can offer,” states Ross.

His book provides an intimate portrait of elementary school-aged kids to youths in their teens, all in confinement for juvenile delinquency or

even murder. More than a focus on crimes that these youths have committed, Ross’ book captures the pure essence of young innocence and vulnerability that only a photograph can show.

Picture an ordinary school kid from your average elementary school. Now imagine that child in a stark white room, with a concrete slab for a bed, and a metal sink and toilet.

Here they describe some of the crimes they committed that led to their confinement:

“I’m from Newburgh. It’s a tough town. I think I was first charged when I was nine years old. I was a robbery lookout. I got caught in a big raid they did in town. I’m still in elementary school,” says L.R., age 11, who is serving time in a Juvenile Treatment Center in Red Hook, New York.

“I have been running away my whole life. My parents divorced when I was four. My

father sexually abused me from age five to nine. My step-mother physically abused me. I was kidnapped by a pimp and prostituted out. I tried to run at one point and was shot in my butt. I was paralyzed for two weeks. I shouldn’t be here, they are not charging me with anything, but they have set bail at \$250,000” – R., age 16, at Multnomah County Detention Facility, Multnomah County, Oregon.

“I’m a sophomore in high school. My father abused me, and he told me he was going to do the same to my little brother and sister. When he told me he was going to hurt them...I couldn’t let that happen. He was asleep, so I took his gun and shot him. I pled guilty to manslaughter. I had just turn 14 when it happened. My brother and sister can’t visit. I miss them a lot. I don’t like showing my emotions. I would rather keep things neutral. If I let my emotions get into it... control can all fall away. Being able to control, this is my real strength.” – Z., age 16, serving time in Juvenile Corrections



Photojournalist Richard Ross

Center, Nampa, Idaho.

Ross explains: “I learned how to speak to children in detention and confinement. I learned to neutralize the authority of my age, height and race by sitting on the floor and allowing the children to have control over the conversation and they always had the option of saying, ‘Don’t want to talk about that.’... Sitting on the floor of a cell and listen-

ing to a kid try to explain why his mother hasn’t visited him in the four years he has been in prison is an odd gift to be given.”

According to the American Correctional Association, it costs, on average, \$88,000 per year to incarcerate a single youth in a juvenile correctional facility. By comparison, a four-year public university can cost less than \$8,000 a year.

# Senate Pushes Bill 124 to Reduce Juvenile Solitary Confinement

By Emily Harris  
Ella Baker Center for Human Rights

Legislation that limits the use of solitary confinement at state and county juvenile correctional facilities was passed by the California Senate. It is now before the State Assembly.

Senate Bill 124, authored by Sen. Mark Leno, creates state-wide standards that encourage the use of less damaging and more effective disciplinary actions. The bill is similar to a settlement recently reached between Contra Costa County and disability rights advocates following allegations of solitary confinement abuses of special needs youth in that county’s juvenile hall.

“Solitary confinement is an extraordinarily harmful disciplinary measure that has no rehabilitative purpose whatsoever,” said Sen. Leno, D-San Francisco. “It is inhumane to lock up young people in this way and deprive them of human contact, education, exercise and fresh air. This type of



Senator Mark Leno

isolation is widely condemned and only exacerbates the problems troubled youth face. We must provide them with treatment, not prolonged isolation, if we want them to become future productive members of our communities.”

SB 124 defines solitary confinement and permits its use in juvenile correctional centers only when a person poses an

immediate and substantial risk of harming others or threatening the security of the facility. The bill is co-sponsored by the Ella Baker Center for Human Rights, California Public Defenders Association, Youth Justice Coalition and Children’s Defense Fund-California. It is also supported by the Alameda and Los Angeles County Boards of Supervisors and a large network of civil rights organizations, health and social workers, churches and legal justice groups.

“The Senate’s passage of SB 124 brings us one step closer to ending the solitary confinement of youth, a damaging practice that has been shown to cause irreparable harm,” said Jennifer Kim, director of programs for the Ella Baker Center for Human Rights. “In order to heal, youth need to receive proper treatment and be connected to their families and communities.”

A 2009 national survey connects the use of solitary confinement to suicide. About half of young people in the juvenile

justice system who committed suicide were isolated and alone when they died. In addition, more than 10 percent of young people in juvenile facilities who committed suicide had been in solitary confinement in the past.

“Experts agree that the practice of placing youth in solitary confinement can have lifelong negative psychological consequences because of their unique developmental needs,” said Martin Schwarz, a California Public Defenders Association board member. “With this bill, California joins a growing number of states who have restricted or abolished solitary confinement for children.”

“We applaud members of the Senate for their leadership in voting for SB 124 to protect our incarcerated youth from the trauma of solitary confinement,” said Alex M. Johnson, executive director of the Children’s Defense Fund-California. “SB 124 is a critical step toward ending the punitive incarceration model in juvenile justice facilities across the state.”

According to the *Los Angeles Times*, 19 states ban solitary confinement for punitive reasons. Most recently, New York City banned the use of solitary confinement of youth 21 and younger.

“California uses harsh, and often long-term solitary confinement in both its youth and adult institutions,” said Kim McGill, an organizer with the Youth Justice Coalition who has also experienced solitary confinement. “These practices are outdated and debilitating to a person’s physical, emotional and mental well-being.”

SB 124 is scheduled to be heard in Assembly policy committees this summer.

“While California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation (CDCR) cannot comment on pending legislation, it is incorrect to refer to Security Housing Units (SHU) as solitary,” reports the CDCR press office. “There is no ‘solitary confinement’ in California prisons and the SHU is not solitary confinement. Many inmates in SHU have cellmates.”

# Focus on Arts Boosts Grades and Later Success

By John Lam  
Journalism Guild Writer

Students who are trained in the arts perform better in school and enjoy a greater chance of success as adults, a study for the National Endowment for the Arts concludes.

“Students who have arts-rich experiences in school do better across-the-board academically, and they also become more active and engaged citizens, voting, volunteering, and generally participating at higher rates than their peers,” states Rocco Landesman, chairman for the National Endowment for the Arts.

The report presents compara-

tive outcomes among children, teenagers and young adults with either minimal or intensive art involvement.

A key finding of academic achievement for students from low-socioeconomic status (SES) backgrounds revealed that those “who have a history of in-depth arts involvement show better academic outcomes than do low-SES youths who have less arts involvement,” states the report.

Further findings show that students who have arts-rich experience have exhibited the following commonalities:

1. Completing a calculus course
2. Achieving a higher G.P.A
3. More likely to complete a

bachelor’s degree

4. More likely to have higher-paying and professionally rewarding career

5. Exhibiting higher levels of volunteering, voting and engagement with local or school politics.

Students who earned few or no art credits exhibited the following as a cohort:

1. They were five times more likely not to have graduated high school than students who completed more art classes.
2. Have lower test scores in science and writing
3. Are less likely to select a major in college that leads to a professional career.

“These findings suggest that

in-school or extracurricular programs offering deep arts involvement may help to narrow the gap in achievement levels among youth of high- versus low-SES,” the report states.

“Even youth from socially and economically advantaged backgrounds may find access to greater civic and social par-

ticipation via deep arts involvement” — all classes benefit, states the NEA.

The study was authored by James S. Catterall, University of California Los Angeles; Susan A. Dumais, Louisiana State University; and Gillian Hampden-Thompson, University of York, U.K.

Kid CAT (Creating Awareness Together) is a group of men that committed their crimes as teens and were sentenced as adults to life terms. The group’s mission is to inspire humanity through education, mentorship and restorative practices. Kid CAT Speaks wants to hear from the men and women juvenile lifers, educators, and policy makers concerning juvenile justice issues and rehabilitation.



# ‘Get On The Bus’ Offers San Quentin Inmates the Chance to Visit Loved Ones



Photo by Leroy Lucas

Darnell “Moe” Washington’s daughter, Destiny Player, came to see him, along with his granddaughter, Khalieah Allen, his mother Bobbie Young, and sister Melinda Lockhart

**By Juan Haines**  
**Managing Editor**

For Brain Asey, doing time at San Quentin State Prison means being far away from his son and daughter who are living in Southern California. “It’s hard to be a parent behind bars because I’m not there when they need me,” he said. “It’s frustrating. All I can do is call or write letters.”

Asey’s son, nephew and mother took advantage of Get on the Bus (GOTB), a nonprofit organization that coordinates with the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation to bring children to incarcerated parents on Mother’s Day and Father’s Day.

This was the fourth year in a row Asey has benefited from the GOTB program.

“I missed seeing my daughter this time,” Asey said. “They keep me strong in here. So, I look forward to the visits.”

More than half of prisoners who are parents are incarcerated more than 100 miles from their children, and 10 percent live more than 500 miles away, according to the U.S. Department of Justice, Bureau of Justice Statistics.

Maintaining good communications with children and incarcerated parents has even gotten the attention of

the children’s television show, *Sesame Street*.

*Tips for Incarcerated Parents*, written and published by *Sesame Street*, gives advice on how to answer difficult questions a child may ask an incarcerated parent, as well as how to connect with their children during visits.

*“It makes me want to support preserving relationships between parents and kids”*

The tips help prisoners deal with questions like: Where are you? When will you be home? Will I get to see you?

There are tips on helping the child feel comfortable during visits, on how to make the most of their visiting time, and how to make good-byes easier.

“Children are paying for a crime that they didn’t commit,” said Amalia Molina, executive director of Get on the Bus. “When the father goes to prison, it has a ripple effect on the child.

“It is very important to have children connect with their

parents to show them that they are loved,” said Molina, who works with the Center for Restorative Justice Works in Los Angeles.

Anna Hamilton, Cathy Kallin, Michelle Tapia, Dana Dart-McLean, Courtney Cayford and Antonio Luevano are GOTB volunteers who catered to the children and their guardians during the bus ride.

“I think it’s really wonderful to see families connecting,” said Tapia, a school counselor who works with children of incarcerated parents. “I see how challenging it is for the kids,” she said. “It makes me want to support preserving relationships between parents and kids.”

Darnell “Moe” Washington’s daughter, Destiny Player, came to see him, along with his granddaughter, Khalieah Allen, his mother Bobbie Young, and sister Melinda Lockhart.

“I get to spend time with my daughter who’s on college break,” Washington said. “I only get to see them once a year and that’s because of Get on the Bus program. It’s a blessing and good program.”

“We miss his presence in the family,” his sister Melinda said. “He’s the glue that keeps us together.”

Washington’s daughter, Destiny, attends college in New Orleans and majors in psychology. “We have a good bond,” she



Photo by Leroy Lucas

Stacey Bullocks and daughter Crira



Photo by Leroy Lucas

Travis Banks with his daughter Keya Banks and her son Demauri

said. “I learn a lot about what he does in Restorative Justice.”

Washington, who has been incarcerated for 18 years, said, “The biggest difference in me from the person I was, is that today is that I am able to forgive through the practices of Restorative Justice.”

Visits from family and friends offer a means of establishing, maintaining, or enhancing social support net-

works, according to a study by Minnesota Department of Corrections Research Director, Grant Duwe.

The study finds that visitation can reduce recidivism by maintaining prisoners’ social ties with family members, and by helping prisoners develop new bonds with clergy or mentors. In doing so, offenders can sustain or broaden their networks of social support.



Photo by Leroy Lucas

Guy Miles hangs out with his love ones



Photo by Leroy Lucas

Get On The Bus volunteers



# 'Bus Program' Reconnects California's Women Prisoners With Their Children

By Kristina Khokhobashvili  
CDCR Public Information Officer

Mother's Day was always especially difficult for Iyasmine Harris. While incarcerated in county jail, she gave birth to her son, Eddie. He went to live with family the day he was born, and, financial and geographical difficulties made visiting nearly impossible when she was sentenced to state prison. But thanks to the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation (CDCR) and the Get On The Bus program, Harris was able to hold her son for the first time.

"I'm very grateful for the volunteers who raised money just to get us here today," Harris said, an enthusiastic Eddie bouncing in her arms in the visiting area of Central California Women's Facility. "Because there are other mothers like me who haven't had a chance to have a physical visit with their son."

Get On The Bus is a project of the Center for Restorative Justice Works. Each year, CRJW provides free transportation to state and federal prisons for children to visit their incarcerated parents. Each child is accompanied by a caregiver, and counseling is available, as well. Throughout the day, families participate in fun activities like crafts and board games, with plenty of time set aside for catching up and having heart-to-heart talks.

"These children need to see their mom," said Amalia Molina, Executive Director for Get On The Bus. "It's the right thing to do. They are paying a price for a crime they did not commit."

CDCR strongly supports visitation, as keeping family bonds strong is an important way to break the cycle of incarceration. CCWF Warden Deborah K. Johnson stated, "Each incarcerated mother seeing their children gives them a reason to

stay positive and make healthy choices.

They want to be a role model for their families, especially their children. I think it's a wonderful opportunity. It's great to see the parents spending time with their families."

The week before CCWF's special visiting day, the California Institution for Women hosted 141 children visiting 35 incarcerated mothers. CDCR's third and final female institution, Folsom Women's Facility, will hold a Get on the Bus event July 18. Father's Day events are held in June at several male institutions.

Get On The Bus is 99 percent made possible by volunteers, Molina said. Their efforts go year-round, from fundraising for transportation and food to interviewing families and riding the bus to and from the institutions. Sheila Byrd, Harris' mother, said she was unable to make it to the Get On The Bus pickup location the morning of the event and volunteers quickly made sure she found transportation in time to catch the bus.

"We appreciate it so much," she said. "They are such a big help to us. If you don't have a way, they'll make sure you get a way."

"I'm ecstatic!" beamed Erica Devine as she played games with her sons. "It has been 13 months since I've seen them. I'm overwhelmed."

Devine's mother and sons traveled from Yucca Valley, some 350 miles from CCWF. They were able to catch one of the buses in San Bernardino, at no cost to her or her family.

"I think it's great," said Devine, who will go home soon. "It gives me a chance to reconnect with them and re-bond with them before I go home; it gives me an opportunity to connect with them in a place that I know is safe."



Photo by Eric Owens

Erica Devine greets her sons



Photo by Eric Owens

Woman prisoner happy to spend time with her loved ones



Photo by Eric Owens

Iyasmine Harris colors with her son, Eddie

Father's Day visiting events took place in June at California Men's Colony, San Quentin State Prison, Correctional Training Facility and Salinas Valley State Prison. Additional Get On The Bus events will take place in July at Folsom State Prison, California State Prison-Sacramento and Folsom Women's Facility. For more information, visit [www.getonthebus.us](http://www.getonthebus.us).



Photo by Eric Owens

Tanesha Jennings shares a laugh with her son, Kaeden



# A Familiar Face and a Complex Relationship

## An ‘OG’s’ Perspective

**By Larry Stiner Jr.**

The face on that man looks very familiar. And so does his uniform: perfectly matching navy-blue shirt and pants accessorized with a black duty belt upon which a nine millimeter handgun is holstered. The shiny oval-shaped badge on his chest identifies him as an officer working for the Los Angeles Police Department.

I’ve seen that face before but can’t quite recall when or where. Had he stopped me in traffic? Had he once confronted a group of friends I happened to be with? Did I see him questioning or arresting someone in my neighborhood? I don’t think so. My gut tells me I had a more positive experience in my dealings with this African-American

law enforcer.

Finally, I remember him. He and I had grown up on the same block and had gone to school together many years ago. We had been childhood friends.

Frozen by the surprise of discovering he had gone to work for the Police Department, I simply stare in silence. It is extremely rare for anyone from around my way to walk down that law enforcement path. With a deep-seeded mistrust of the police often handed down from parent to child, negative experiences between the L.A.P.D. and minorities in South Los Angeles only widened the divide.

Now that I know who this man is, my stare intensifies as I try to see down into his soul. He looks away, but

I can’t. With so many black bodies dropping from the impact of police bullets around the country, I have a burning desire to know which side of the line he falls on. Do Black lives matter to him? Does he truly believe that two hands up means don’t shoot? Having been raised on the same street as I, he is uniquely positioned to see things from both sides. Surely, he hasn’t forgotten the constant police harassment we experienced as innocent teenagers. He could not have forgotten how many of our peers had been targeted, framed and jailed by the bad seeds walking among the men in blue.

On the flip side, I am certain he also remembers the deadly gang warfare and heavy drug trafficking that made our environment seem



Larry Stiner Jr.

like the “wild, wild West” and which, in turn, had many in the community feeling the police needed to do more to stop the violence.

Part of me believes his roots had to have instilled in him a longing to change the historically poor relationship between people of color and the

police. I reason he must have become an officer because he wants to do his part to make things fair. Another side of me, however, remains skeptical as my mind plays back the recent images of African-American cops idly standing by or participating in the incidents that led to the deaths of Eric Garner in New York and Freddie Gray in Baltimore.

I can’t help but wonder about the true feelings of the police officers in riot gear standing face to face with angry protesters who are overcome with pain, fear and frustration, as they cry for help and demand change. Do any of those officers feel the same pain and frustration? Do any of them really care? The fact that I am even asking myself these things reminds me of how much work we still have to do as a society.

In the end, I walk away without ever saying a word to the officer with the familiar face. He and I both know why.

# Utah Program Lets Women Prisoners Read ‘Bedtime Stories’ to Their Families

**By Thomas Gardner  
Journalism Guild Writer**

Women prisoners in Utah are given the opportunity to participate in a “bedtime stories” program as a way to bond with their families, reports Keri Lunt Stevens for the *Associated Press*.

Sponsored by United Way and the Ashton Family Foundation, the program is primarily geared toward incarcerated moms who have young children, writes Stevens in the January article.

“Moms who are in prison still, like any mom, want to have a connection with their child,” said Katie Hoshino, senior adviser of community relations, Utah County United Way.

The program was created 10 years ago by Brigham Young University student Brook Plowthow, then a freshman with an idea of a way to serve

the community.

Participating inmates are able to record themselves reading books to the children they love through the program, reported Stevens. From recordings, individual compact discs are made and then sent to each child.

Program participant Sasha Foltz is serving a five-year sentence. “I’m really grateful for this program,” Foltz said. “We don’t get a lot of contact otherwise.”

Stevens noted the program delivers a double impact. The children receive a level of attention that may have been lost, and the mom receives a degree of satisfaction in being able to give affection.

Along with the recorded story, a brief message such as “I love you,” or “I miss you,” is allowed and often included, according to the article.

Commenting on the situation that incarcerated mothers are

in, Hoshino said, “That bond that is created when you read, your child is missing that when mom is in prison.”

One Sunday a month, United Way volunteers, using handheld recorders, sit one to a table with paper and pen nearby capturing the expressions of love delivered by the inmates, Stevens explained.

Sharing her experience with the program, United Way coordinator Stephanie Anderson said, “When you meet the inmates and see them tear up and cry while reading these stories, you see they are just normal people.”

The Timpanogos Women’s Correctional Facility has hosted the effort. The core idea is to unite inmates with their families. A collection of books that have been pre-screened for the program are available for the readers.

Serving an 18-month sen-

tence at Timpanogos, Rainey Bridges appreciated the opportunity to read to her 4-year-old son, Jaykob. “I miss my little boy,” said Bridges. “It makes me feel closer to him.”

Mother to son or daughter are not the only relationships to benefit from the program. Some inmates have read to sib-

lings, nieces, nephews and even their dying parents, explains Stevens.

“Yes, they are paying their debts to society, and they should be—but their kids shouldn’t be,” said Anderson.

Although those with child related crimes are not eligible for the program, Stevens reports.



# Senators Aim to Revive Shrunkened Juvenile Justice Funds

**By Anouthinh Pangthong  
Journalism Guild Writer**

In the course of a decade, federal funding for juvenile justice declined to about half of what was appropriated when Congress last reauthorized the Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act (JJ-DPA) in 2002.

To date, federal spending is about \$251 million. This is down from the \$547 million appropriated at the 2002 reauthorization of the JJ-DPA. Advocates for juvenile justice call for more funding.

Senators Charles E. Grassley, R-Iowa, and Sheldon Whitehouse, D-Rhode Island, are expected to introduce a bipartisan measure in the near future to reauthorize JJ-DPA.

The “core requirements” of

JJDPA are to prevent detention of “status offenders” who come in contact with the juvenile justice system for nonviolent offenses; reduce disproportionate minority contact (DMC) with the juvenile justice system; remove young offenders from adult facilities; and prevent contact between adult inmates and incarcerated youths in adult institutions.

The bipartisan measure by Grassley and Whitehouse is expected to close loopholes in JJ-DPA that allow exceptions to detaining of status offenders and to offer states incentives that focus more on education for incarcerated youths than on incarceration of young offenders.

“The budget challenges at the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention

are compounded by instances of duplication and overlap in numerous grant programs administered by the U.S. Department of Justice,” says a spokesman for Grassley. “Senator Grassley is committed to pursuing reform to ensure that the limited grant resources now available to OJJDP will be devoted to the most meritorious initiatives and projects for the nation’s at-risk youth.”

The steep decline in formula grants, called Title II, diminishes states’ incentives to offer alternatives for youth offenders. This could translate to states locking up young offenders because it is easier to do so due to a lack of federal funding.

Marie Williams, executive director of the Washington-based nonprofit Coalition for Juvenile Justice, said in an email, “If one

considers the way the JJ-DPA was conceptualized, the sharp decrease in funding is particularly troubling.” Williams continued, “The JJ-DPA’s design is such that it not only prescribes core protections, but provides funding to incentivize states’ participation in the act, and gives them the resources to do so.

“The significant reduction of those resources over time has had the predictable effect of also diminishing the incentive for some states to participate.”

President Barack Obama requested \$339 million for juvenile justice in his 2016 fiscal year budget, an increase of 35 percent. This increase would be earmarked toward \$70 million for the Title II JJ-DPA formula grants; \$42 million will

go toward the JJ-DPA Title V Delinquency Prevention Program; \$10 million targeting the “school-to-prison pipeline”; and \$30 million for a new “Smart on Juvenile Justice Initiative.”

Many budget observers doubt Congress will approve the increased funding.

But increasing spending alone wouldn’t necessarily improve outcomes for delinquent children said Nate Balis, director of the Juvenile Justice Strategy Group.

“More funding in itself for a juvenile justice system that has typically spent the money in the wrong way, on facilities rather than families, on being punitive rather than being developmental in its approach, is not what the juvenile justice system needs,” Balis said.



# Julius Caesar and Macbeth Entertain 600 Guests



Photo by Leroy Lucas

Photo by Leroy Lucas

Julius Caesar played by Azraal Ford was betrayed and killed. Mark Anthony played by Lemar Harrison is lamenting over his death.

JulianGlenn "Luke" Padgett and Jarvis "Lady Jae" Clark captivate the audience portraying Macbeth and his wife

**By Juan Haines**  
Managing Editor

In a week's span, Shakespeare's *Julius Caesar* and *Macbeth* were performed at San Quentin State Prison for audiences that totaled more than 600 guests including community members, prison staff and fellow inmates.

Lesley Currier and Suraya Keating of the Marin Shakespeare Company have been directing plays inside San Quentin for 12 years. They work with the inmates for months, helping them learn to speak and understand the language of Shakespeare, and to examine and portray the motivations of his characters. In doing so, the inmate actors say they learn a great deal about themselves.

"Shakespeare helps me open up to people because I'm a closed person," said inmate Eric Lowery. "It helps relieve racial tensions. It takes my mind off being in prison and it's good to be appreciated by the outside people who come to our performances."

Lowery, 35, who played Young Siward in *Macbeth* and Trebonius in *Julius Caesar*, said this was his sixth and last Shakespearean play. Lowery is preparing to appear before the parole board next year. He's been imprisoned 17 years and at San Quentin for eight years. "Shakespeare has given me the chance to mature emotionally and spiritually," he said.

Azraal Ford played Julius Caesar. Before taking the stage, he said, "I feel excited, ready to awe some people and leave some people to believe it was a great day."

Ford has been incarcerated 17 years and has been at San Quentin for two years. "I've met a lot of people here," he said. "Both insiders and outsiders have helped me pursue a path of success and break out of the bad. It's allowed me to laugh at myself, which is something I've not done in a long time."

*Julius Caesar* began with a dramatic entrance of Roman soldiers proceeding up the center aisle from the rear of the Protestant Chapel, which doubles as a theater.

Upon Caesar's entrance, some inmates seemed amused at seeing inmates they know well in costume as actors. There were murmurs and laughter at some of the Shakespearean lines, but it was clear that the audience was involved in the story.

Many entrances and exits moved the flow of the story along. Whenever Caesar exited, the inmates, mimicking Roman soldiers, raised their arms and hailed him.

Lemar "Maverick" Harrison played Mark Anthony. This was Harrison's third play. He played Gratiano in *The Merchant of Venice* and Fenton in *The Merry Wives of Windsor*.

Harrison said, "I feel very privileged to have the opportunity to live out a dream in pris-

on. I was 19 at the time of the crime that sent me to prison. I go to the board in two years. Since being incarcerated, I've learned how to be myself.

"The plays are full of relatable issues that prisoners in general go through, like racism or love or the lack of it, jealousy, envy and self-doubt," Harrison added.

Harrison said the role of Mark Antony impacted how he matured while incarcerated. "I was Caesar's right hand man. It is a role that made me look into myself and ask myself: 'Am I strong enough to accept another person's burden or troubles?' It made me reevaluate how I look at friendships. It made me realize the importance of a true friend."

Referring to his youth when he began his incarceration, Harrison said, "I was prone to peer pressure. I used to do anything to acquire friends or look good or whatever my peers wanted to do. Now 20 years later, I realize that I can't allow other's ideologies or expectations to dictate who I am."

"I feel obligated to today's youth to not only be an example but to be a promoter of their dreams and aspirations," Harrison said. "That's all I ever wanted as a kid, someone to believe in me, someone to motivate me."

In *Macbeth*, the clear and polished tones of JulianGlenn "Luke" Padgett evoked the in-

ner turmoil of the lead character and his wife, Lady Macbeth, who was portrayed by Jarvis "Lady Jae" Clark.

The audience intently watched their performance as the couple's ambitions led to murder, guilt, regret and catastrophic loss. In eerie scenes, actors playing the crowned ghosts emerged from the audience to torment Macbeth.

Overall, *Macbeth* was a powerful performance with very physical scenes of murder and violence, including a woman being chased down the aisle by an inmate actor. The final battle between Macduff and Macbeth brought a round of applause from the audience as they fought to the death on the stage.

Later, "Lady Jae" explained why she was drawn to acting, "It's to get over my fear of talking in front of people and release pent-up frustration. When you're on stage, you're the focal point. As a transgender, we have to be comfortable in our skin, because people stare at us 24/7. Being on the stage pushes me out of my comfort zone. When it comes to being the center of attention, it forces me to be comfortable with myself."

Currier and Keating "had faith in me," she added. "They told me that I could do it. Their encouragement gave me faith. They are my Shakespearean goddesses."

Padgett, who has played the lead in three Shakespeare

plays in San Quentin, declared, "Shakespeare was the James Brown, the Marvin Gaye, and Janis Joplin of his time. He speaks to everyone who's going through this human process. He questions politics, religion, cross-dressing, interracial relationships, homosexuality, and the empowerment of women. I think he even questions the meaning of life itself."

Referring to his role as Macbeth, Padgett said, "This role was very challenging to me. Macbeth forced me to go back to places and think about murdering another human being; a man who was deeply loved and respected in his community, dearly loved by his family and friends. So, I was being truthful with myself and I opened up universes where I had locked away the thoughts and the emotions and feelings of murdering someone — of looking at my inhumanity."

"So inspiring," said Londoner Ruth Moran, wiping tears from her eyes. "It was so moving. It's first time I have been in San Quentin."

"It was wonderful. I am always impressed with how much the men give of themselves," said Victims Offender Education Group facilitator Karena Montag.

Kate Brickley, from Pennsylvania, said, "It completely allowed me to lean forward and connect with the story and made me leave feeling like a braver person."



Photo by Leroy Lucas

Ronell M. Draper plays the second spirit prophesying Macbeth's future



Photo by Leroy Lucas

Julius Caesar wishes the cast good luck before their performance



# Prison University Project Honors 9 Graduates for Their Accomplishments

Continued from Page 1

by and slid booklets in under my cell door. I did the work until I graduated from high school."

"After turning 17, Vanh said he was transferred to state prison. "Then I had to focus on survival."

"When my cellie (Phoeun You, who is also graduating today) asked me for help with his college homework, I started thinking differently about college," Vanh said.

Vanh enrolled into PUP in 2010.

"I began getting confidence when I completed a research course and a previous teacher complimented me on how much my writing improved," Vanh said.

Addressing his family, Vanh said, "I want you to know that my incarceration is not your fault," which brought tears to many of the men and women in attendance.

"It would have never thought he would get a chance to get a college degree," said Vanh's



Photo by Leroy Lucas

Jerome Boone



Photo by Leroy Lucas

James "JC" Cavitt



Photo by Leroy Lucas

Carlos Flores



Photo by Leroy Lucas

Tony Manning



Photo by Leroy Lucas

Carl Sampson



Photo by Leroy Lucas

S. Tran



Photo by Leroy Lucas

Keung Vanh



Photo by Leroy Lucas

Van Wilson



Photo by Leroy Lucas

Phoeun You

brother, Keo. **Vanh's Cellie Graduated Too!**

Phoeun You's mother, father, brother and three sisters traveled for nine hours to attend the graduation. You hadn't seen his parents for more than 20 years.

"With each class that I completed, new difficulties and struggles followed," You wrote in the graduation program.

"Nevertheless, six years later, in my cap and gown, Mom and Dad, you're still by my side. I can

finally show you how much you are appreciated."

"He changed for better, because of the school program," said You's brother, James. "Hopefully he'll be able to get out soon. I would like him to reach out to the victims' family and ask for forgiveness."

**San Quentin Prison University Project Alumni Attend the Graduation:**

Former San Quentin prisoner and keynote speaker Sam Vaughn is employed in Richmond.

"I work for a city government. I'm a government man," Vaughn said, bringing a round of laughter in the audience. "Now, I challenge that same government."

"I work with people who commit gun violence," Vaughn said. "We engage these young men and build a relationship with them. We challenge them to do something different in their lives and to get an education, driver's license, or anything to change the way they were

living. We help them through a process where guns become irrelevant."

Vaughn said that educating incarcerated people is "very controversial."

"There's people on the streets, working two jobs and can't send their children to college. But you guys are committing crime and your reward is to go to college. Who do you want getting out of prison?"

Vaughn answered those questions by saying, "You're taught critical thinking skills. You are taught how to adapt to society."

He told the graduating inmates that they are needed in the community for the "plethora of knowledge in here. We got to go out there and stop the terrorism that's happening in the community."

"Patten University gave you the opportunity," Vaughn said. "Don't let what society tells you put a ceiling on what you can do."

Curtis Penn was paroled in 2013 under Proposition 36.

"The biggest challenge I had after getting out was being patient and let things happen on its own course," Penn said. "I had to humble myself and apply for social services."

Penn is the recipient of a Willie Brown Fellowship and works with San Francisco Reentry. He has also received a John Erwin Award with Project Rebound in order to help ex-offenders pursue college.

Penn is active in the community. He has served on a sentencing commission in San Francisco. He also works with environmental organizations that teach participants sustainable living.



Photo by Leroy Lucas

Jody Lewen and Keung Vanh

"You got to have a plan of action," Penn said, regarding what to do before getting out of prison.

**Other Graduates:**

Jerome Boone: "My English classes taught me to structure and articulate my thoughts and emotions; math showed me that problem solving also builds confidence; Philosophy and Ethics revealed that not taking a stance is in fact taking a stance. I even found some spirituality, not in

Photo by Leroy Lucas

Guy Miles and Van Wilson

Comparative Religion, but in Biology w/lab. In a way, PUP introduced me to myself."

James "JC" Cavitt: "Receiving my college degree gives me a strong foundation to stand on so I can say, 'No more excuses.' Poor living conditions, scarce resources, lockdowns, or prison bars should not be used as a reason not to pursue higher education."

Carlos Flores: "What has encouraged me to continue in



Photo by Leroy Lucas

Dominique Davies (grand-daughter), Carl Sampson and Danetta Davies (daughter)



Photo by Leroy Lucas

Carlos Flores tells wife Terri (front right) and Julia about how he earned a degree



Photo by Leroy Lucas

Patten University President Thomas addresses the graduates: 'Your faith and persistence is why we're here today to celebrate success'



Photo by Leroy Lucas

Keung Vanh hugs his mom after giving the valedictorian speech



Photo by Leroy Lucas

James "JC" Cavitt with wife Char Cavitt (left), mom Gloria McPeters and sister Tina Cherry



Photo by Leroy Lucas

S. Tran: 'To be able to achieve this accomplishment, it was not just a dream come true, it was worth every day of the 6 years that it took me'



Photo by Leroy Lucas

Auntie Yvonne, Jerome Boone, son Nathaniel and mom Britt

"This is a very important community to me," said Kara Union, PUP program director. "I love you all in a very *not* over-familiar way," which brought laughs from the audience.

**Prison University Project's Mission:**

To provide excellent higher education program to people incarcerated at San Quentin State Prison and throughout the California State Prison system; to create a replicable model for such programs; and to stimulate public awareness and meaningful dialogue about higher education and criminal justice in California. We advocate for higher education programs for individuals incarcerated throughout the State of California and United States, and we strive to promote public support for prison education, training, and recovery programs.

Patten University President Thomas Stewart, Ph.D., told the audience that he wrote his dissertation 20 years ago about the evolution of prisons.



Photo by Leroy Lucas

Keynote speaker Sam Vaughn



Photo by Leroy Lucas

Tony Manning proudly shows his diploma



Photo by Leroy Lucas

Phoeun You reunites with mom, Mony Yai and dad, Ket You after twenty years



Photo by Leroy Lucas

Prison University Project staff and graduates smile for the camera



# Arts & Entertainment

## Snippets

Luck led Michael Spark to find a copy of the Declaration of Independence at a thrift store for \$2.48 plus tax. It was valued and sold at an auction for \$477,650.

In Paris Hotel Las Vegas there is a duplicate of an Arc of Triumph to memorializing the bravery of Romanian soldiers who fought in WWI.

Both Japan and Russia strapped bombs to dogs to attack enemy vehicles. Once a dog arrives at its designation a switch is triggered and detonated to destroy the bottom of vehicles.

Emerged as the only person who untied the Gordian Knot was Alexander the Great. In 333 B.C.E. King Midas had tied the knot claiming that whoever unties the knot will rule all of Asia.

Randolph B. Marcy wrote a handbook for Overland Expeditions, a survivor guide to travel the western frontier. He published the book in 1859, and had basic survival techniques like how to treat snake bites and how to communicate with Native Americans.

Anglo-Saxon England people were defended by King Alfred the Great from the attacks from the Vikings. Alfred the Great was known for the rebirth of religion.

Two hundred treaties were written by Aristotle in the course of his life. However, only 31 exist today.

English, and Afrikkan are languages that Dutch settlers brought to Africa. There are 11 official native languages in Africa.



Trenise Ferreira in front of Chichén Itzá, Mexico



Photo courtesy of Richard Lindsey

Will Coleman, of Palestine, Texas, seen reading a copy of the SQ News in front of the very first Wal-Mart store located on the town square in Bentonville, Arkansas



Featured Photo by P. Jo

*"Life gives all men everything, but most men do not know this."*  
-Jorge Luis Borges

## Sudoku Corner

3		6	2		5		8
7	1			3			9
						1	
			5	9			2
2		3	7		8	1	5
5				2	4		
	3						
1				8			5 3
6		5			3	2	4

		3		9		2	
5				1	6		
7	2				8		
2						6	7
8			6		1		9
	3	6					6
			5				2 7
			8	3			3
		5		6		9	

## Last Issue's Sudoku Solution

7	3	4	1	2	5	9	6	8
1	9	6	8	7	3	5	2	4
8	2	5	6	4	9	7	3	1
6	8	1	4	5	7	3	9	2
5	7	2	3	9	1	4	8	6
3	4	9	2	6	8	1	7	5
4	5	3	9	8	2	6	1	7
2	1	7	5	3	6	8	4	9
9	6	8	7	1	4	2	5	3

6	8	3	9	4	5	1	7	2
9	2	7	8	6	1	5	3	4
4	5	1	7	2	3	6	9	8
1	9	5	6	3	8	4	2	7
7	4	6	1	9	2	8	5	3
8	3	2	4	5	7	9	6	1
3	1	9	2	8	6	7	4	5
5	6	8	3	7	4	2	1	9
2	7	4	5	1	9	3	8	6

## Complete This Puzzle Win a Prize!

How is this possible? 16? 2? 3? 1= 6  
Rules:

The prize will be for completion of brain twister puzzles. All puzzle submissions should be sent via u-save-em envelope to San Quentin News/Education Department. Only one entry per person.

All correct submissions will be place in a hat. The winner will be picked by a drawing of the first answer from that hat.

The answer and winner's name will be published in the next issue of the San Quentin News.

**Last Month's Trivia Answer:**  
305 Dollars. 3 of each denomination and one more 50 dollar bill.

The winner of last month's puzzle is: Brian Johnsen. Congratulations to the following contestants who also got the puzzle right: E. Vick & Anthony Boladeres. Thank you for playing!

The prize winner will receive four Granola Bars. Prizes will only be offered to inmates who are allowed to receive the prize items. Inmates transferred, sent to ad/seg or otherwise not available to claim their prize will result in forfeiture.



# Kid CAT Hosts Amala’s All-Day Walk for Fund Raising

By Juan Haines  
Managing Editor

Nearly two dozen volunteers from the Amala Foundation ventured inside San Quentin on May 31 for an all-day walk, sponsored by Kid CAT, that raised nearly \$1,000 from inmate donations.

Amala Foundation is a youth empowerment organization founded by Vanessa Stone. Amala Foundation holds youth summits around the world designed to help youngsters develop communication and community-building skills.

A summit was held in Foresthill June 15 to 20. One is scheduled in Austin, Tex., Aug. 10 to 16 and one in Africa, Meru Kenya, Dec. 29 to Jan. 5 of next year.

“Many of the inmates make as little as 24 cents an hour,” said inmate Stephen Pascasio, one of the originators of the fundraiser. “So, a thousand dollars is a lot to us.”

“This is a day to restore our humanity,” Stone told inmates. “Everyone needs a day like this. Do not underestimate that every step you take gives the youth the opportunity to heal.”

Various religious organizations gave prayers prior to the walk, including the Jewish and Islamic communities, Native Americans and, for the first time at this event, the Protestant and Catholic prayer was performed together.

After the prayers, several children took to the stage to tell stories of their struggle to overcome adversities while growing up. Many concluded by pointing out how coming inside San Quentin and sharing stories brought them a feeling of connection with the inmates they meet.

The first lap on the prison’s Lower Yard was led by Stone and walked in silence. Among the walkers were nearly 250 community volunteers, children from the Amala Foundation and inmates.

One walker, Evelyn Apoko, had been abducted and held captive and survived a bombing raid in war-torn Uganda. Apoko eventually made her way to the

United States where she now travels and speaks at schools as a board member of Amala Foundation.

“I’m so honored that you guys gave me the motivation to believe in myself,” Apoko told the crowd. “I witnessed the worst in humanity. Amala Foundation helped me find my voice and see peace and forgiveness. All of you, my brothers, you are helping children in the world who are suffering. Because of you, you allow me to touch many children who are suffering.”

While the walk went on, Amala Foundation volunteers, along with inmates, took to the stage for inspirational speeches and music.

As Texan Cranston “Breez” Smith and inmate Antwan “Banks” Williams performed *Heart of a Champion*, a crowd gathered around the stage.

“This is the happiest day of my life,” Breez told the walkers. “I look forward to this day 364 days out of the year.”

“I been knocked down but not defeated,” went the lyrics of *Heart of a Champion*. “You can never count out the heart of a champion.”

During the performance, inmate Robert “Belize” Villafranco entertained the crowd with dance.

Gino Sevacos, Dwight Krizman and Darryl Farris performed a song with one of the Amala Foundation volunteers. “I feel like I’m at a family reunion,” the volunteer said.

“I do a lot of work with Amala, but this is my favorite because it’s shaping my place in this world,” Amala volunteer Nanny said. “I’m so inspired by coming in here. I’m so grateful for you guys helping me shine. There have been so many impacts because of it. One of my biggest prayers is to find a way to support men to cry, to have emotions, to be liberated.”

Inmate John Windham, whose son went to a summit sponsored by Amala last year, said the experience was transforming for his son. “After my son saw that his problems weren’t as big as other kids’, it changed him,” Windham said.

The walk concluded with



File photo

Cranston “Breez” Smith and inmate Antwan “Banks” Williams perform for a live audience



File photo

Amala participants and volunteers form a traditional circle to end the event

more than 300 men and women forming a circle on the Lower Yard.

“If we can circle up in San Quentin, we can circle everywhere,” Stone said. “This is a reflection of your life. You have been part of a movement that goes beyond your identity. Today you have affirmed your existence. You have aligned with God and grace and humility. This is time to let yourself be seen in the work that you are doing. One village. No separation. There are no walls.” Before

breaking the circle, Stone asked all the participants to chant: “Love, Respect, Honesty, Community, one Village.”

“I’m so happy because I feel like I’ve seen my humanity reflected in so many other people,” said Amala Foundation volunteer Savannah. “I’m reminded that there aren’t any barriers between my heart and others.”

“Today you guys have provided us a way to find power and meaning in our lives,” Stone said. “You guys have provided

something for us and for people you’ll never see. Without a doubt, this circle is tenfold out there.”

*God Bless the Day You Were Born* was sung as Villafranco danced on his birthday. Next year he goes before the parole board.

“Everything I looked for in life, I’ve found here,” Villafranco said. “Life is what you make it. If I’m living doing God’s work, it doesn’t matter where I am. My life is about service, about giving smiles and getting them back.”



File photo

Amala’s ‘One Village’ members came to speak on their experience as survivors



# Prisoners Reminiscence About Fourth of July

## Asked On The Line

By Angelo Falcone  
Journalism Guild Writer

The month of July is the fourth of seven months with 31 days. A full moon is expected on Thursday, July 2, and again on Friday, July 31.

On Saturday, July 4, the United States celebrates its independence.

According to the World Almanac, July is Cell Phone Courtesy Month, National Hot Dog Month and Women's Motorcycle Month.

There are two astrological signs in July: Cancer, the sign of the Crab (June 22 to July 22) and Leo, the sign of the Lion (July 23 to August 22). The birthstone for the month of July is the ruby.

One of the most widely celebrated days during summer is Independence Day. When was the best Fourth of July for the men on the mainline? Asked On The Line wanted men in blue to take a walk down memory lane and describe what they liked most about this national holiday.

Michael Thompson's best Fourth of July was in 1984. "The Summer Olympics was in L.A. so it was an exciting year full of international people. I was 15 years old, without a care in the world, and I was loving life!"

Carlos Flores said, "I was 3 years old. My older brother was at the Boy Scouts Fireworks Booth and he was scaring me with a 'Simon Says' dummy.

On that same day, we also found our lost dog, Bridgett."

Hieu Nguyen: "I came from a third-world country. July 4 is not really something that I celebrate much. When I think about the month of July, it brings me sadness because a life was lost because of me."

Kamsan Suon: "I was 8 years old and had never seen anything so spectacular. Fireworks made me feel excited to live in a free world."

Duke Harris was 10 years old. "It was my first experience at the Pleasanton Fairgrounds. I remember eating barbecued ribs, links, and chicken along with cotton candy. I got on all of the rides. It was my best Fourth of July."

Al-Amin McAdoo said that his best Fourth of July moment was when he was 19 years old. "I was watching my 11-month-old daughter get extremely excited from seeing her first fireworks."



Kamsan Soun

Photo by Sam Hearn



Alex Ruiz

Photo by Kara Ulfon

Philip Seng: "1989 was the best, because it was the last time I was with my family. I was 21 years old and I was around my whole family and I was free."

Alex Ruiz: "Every Fourth of July is great for me because it is my mom's birthday! I also have a couple of cousins who were born on July 4, so I will forever enjoy this day."

Aaron Dufour remembers a special Fourth of July. "On July 4, 2011, it was the night before

my second daughter was born."

Jesus Flores: "My children and my nieces and nephews were all born here and so I like the Fourth of July because they have fun watching the fireworks and the parades."

Forrest Jones: "I remember at the age of 16, me and my family went to Hume Lake on the Fourth of July. We sat around the fire and watched the fireworks show—seeing the fireworks reflect off the water."

## Feelings of ‘Hate, Resentment, and Bitterness’ in “B” Section

### Back in the Day



Photo courtesy of Leslie Lakes

A prisoner reflects on his life ‘a rebel and an outlaw’ inside a cell

Researched By A. Kevin Valvardi  
Journalism Guild Writer

The following is reprinted from the *San Quentin News*, July 23, 1971. “Bastille by the Bay,” by J. Pence Wagner.

The crash of the porcelain wash basin reverberates throughout the tiers and the yells and screams deafen a man. A few minutes ago the guards led a youngster by with the blood dripping from his wrists; a guy on the next tier up has his bunk off the wall and is wearing himself out by crashing it into the door; the guy two cells down has just thrown his fluorescent light tube out onto the tier; this is “B” Section, San Quentin Prison on a rather normal evening.

ing an underground newspaper. I didn't, and am back at my desk, much wiser, and a little more aware of what's going on around me.

Last week Phil Clark wrote about men in blue walking in circles. As I read his words, I thought about the men who walk the circle of a cell, and who for reasons of his own choice to “do their own thing” no matter what the consequences. The men whose lives revolve around a core of hate, resentment, and bitterness.

I wonder how you reach a man who has made a wall of hate his defense to the world? I wonder how you tell a man who is locked in a cell 24 hours a day, and make him realize the door will open to him one day, and he'll be a part of society again? How do you convince a man, that no matter what he's done, there is something for him someplace in the world? How do you convince a man that even though he is locked away from life, the sun, and even the sound of laughter, real laughter, that there is a place in the world for him?

How can you take a man who has spent a lifetime being a rebel, an outlaw, and teach him to adjust to society's way of thinking? Do you do it by locking him away from the main population of one of the reputed heavier prisons in the system? I think there has to be an answer someplace, and the answer will come from the men themselves. I didn't like it one bit in that place over there, and there are those of you reading this who've been there that will agree with me. It's beyond me to think of an answer, but there must be some solution.

The experience was very much like that of being in the county jail. Most guys when they go to jail aren't prepared for it. No lawyer. No bail money. No way of knowing what's going to happen next. “B” Section is like that. Or at least it was like that to me. I sat there under investigation for a charge that could have very well been true. There was a justification on the part of

staff because I am a writer, and I do know a little bit about the working end of a newspaper, and I know a little bit about editing and layout work.

I asserted my innocence, and after a complete investigation I was freed. But the fact remains that it happened. It could happen to any of us at any time. I think we have to be prepared to meet these “crises” now, because from experience they are bound to happen from time to time in the free world.

One thing I've learned from it all: if you're telling the truth, and you're right, no matter what happens to you, you're bound to

come out of it all right. I honestly believe that, even though my faith was a bit shaken up for a while.

I hope I never have to go back to “B” Section again for any reason, and I hope some day there will be no more “B” Sections. But I think it's up to us, the men in blue, to find an alternative to these places. Until we do, they will exist, and men will continue to vent their frustrations, their anger, their futility, and their hopelessness against the walls, the basins, windows, light bulbs, and their own bodies.

Peace!

### Chained Voices Art Gallery Show

See drawings, paintings, original poetry and lyrics, sculpture, and other creative art pieces created by artist who were arrested as juveniles and are now incarcerated in juvenile and adult facilities in Colorado.

Art of Life Gallery  
200 Santa Fe Dr., Denver, CO 80223  
Friday July 17th 4:00 - 7:00 pm  
Saturday July 18th 10:00 am - 1:00 pm

"Chained Voices" is a collaborative effort on behalf of incarcerated juveniles, the Colorado Juvenile Defender Center (CJDC) (a Denver based nonprofit), and Denver based Forensic Social Workers.

This two-day Art Show is a fundraiser to benefit incarcerated youth and to help inform the public about the plight of juveniles incarcerated in the criminal and juvenile justice system. Submissions are accepted from any person currently incarcerated at a juvenile detention facility or adult DOC facility for a crime committed as a juvenile.

All submissions will be sold to attempt to pay for a specific need of the incarcerated artist. The "Chained Voices" committee will provide the requested item/need directly to the artist. All of the money collected for each art piece will be put toward this need; none of the funds will be kept by the committee. For more information contact CJDC at 303-882-6620 or visit [www.cjdc.org](http://www.cjdc.org).

### Faith & Hope beyond prison walls

October 10, 2015  
Home boy Industries, Los Angeles, CA

We invite you to participate in the 9th art show by the Partnership for Re-Entry Program (PREP). Please spread the word and get your artist friends involved! We welcome art in any size and all media. Art lovers enjoy famous portraits, nature, animals, and landscapes just to name a few. Poetry, beadwork, yard work, sculptures, etc. are welcome.

PREP ART SHOW 2015  
October 10, 2015  
Home boy Industries, Los Angeles, CA

Because of our faith perspective, we want to stay away from gang, sex or violent pieces. Please do not write notes or letters on your artwork. Proceeds will help PREP continue to serve parolees through counseling, education housing referrals in efforts to combat the high recidivism rate.

Artwork submission is ongoing and the deadline is Sept. 20, 2015. Please include a statement about your work, title and a brief biography. If you have difficulty shipping the art, please let us know and we can work with the chaplains. Please note artwork cannot be returned. Please send your artwork to:

PREP  
P.O. Box 77850  
Los Angeles, CA 90007

PREP Contact: Sister Mary Sean Hodges  
Office (323) 299-9547  
Cell (323) 371-0757

### Website Offers Help to Families of Those Incarcerated

A new and free search engine, [www.PrisonPath.com](http://www.PrisonPath.com), provides information for the public. The site helps users in clarifying confusion and fear of the unknown when a loved one is charged and arrested, or sentenced to imprisonment in the United States. PrisonPath provides information including the ability to find a person incarcerated, visitation rules, contact numbers, and more about every American prison or jail. It also allows families and friends of inmates to communicate with each other on a specific page.



**1. Roseburg, Ore.** — Jesse Stuart Fanus has been sentenced to life in prison without parole for a 1998 murder that once had him on Death Row. The death sentence was overturned on appeal in 2012 and a retrial led to life imprisonment, the Roseburg News-Review reported.

**2. Jerome, Idaho** — Jaimi Charboneau has been released on a \$20,000 bond pending a ruling by the Idaho Supreme Court on an appeal of his conviction for killing his ex-wife more than 30 years ago. KTVB-TV reported Fifth District Judge Robert J. Elgee vacated Charboneau's conviction and sentence after determining the state had hidden significant evidence. Charboneau was sentenced to death but was later resentedenced to life in prison. He says the shooting was in self-defense.

**3. Folsom** — Folsom State Prison Warden Ron Rackley recently presented a check to Wind Youth Services for more than \$10,000. Inmates from the Folsom State Prison's Men's Advisory Council held an annual food sale fundraiser. This year they raised \$10,183.88 and 100 percent of the money raised was donated to the Wind Youth Services of Sacramento.

**4. San Diego** — A federal judge has tossed out a postcard-only rule for San Diego County jail inmates. U-T San Diego reported the judge ruled that a jail policy barring personal mail in envelopes is unconstitutional. He issued a preliminary injunction ordering the policy suspended



by May 21. The Sheriff's Department adopted the policy three years ago to reduce the amount of contraband being smuggled into the jail.

**5. Calipatria** — Inmates at Calipatria State Prison have donated close to \$24,000 to local community groups, thanks to profits from food sales. Alcoholics Anonymous and Narcotics Anonymous sponsored the food sales. The money will go to assist cancer victims, crime victims and educational programs.

**6. Dilley, Texas** — An estimat-

ed 500 protesters demonstrated May 2 at a family detention center urging the federal government to "shut it down," The Texas Tribune reported. The center was built in 2014 to house up to 2,400 undocumented women and children who are seeking asylum.

**7. Lansing, Mich.** — The Michigan House voted 57-53 to approve a bill to allow private prison operator GEO Group to reopen a former youth prison as a maximum-security prison. Six Republicans joined all 47 Democrats in voting against the plan.

Florida-based GEO Group has been trying to reopen its 1,740-bed North Lake Correctional Facility since 2005, when the state of Michigan ended its contract with the company to house juvenile offenders at the facility. In 2011, GEO Group had a contract to house California prisoners that fizzled, the Detroit News reported.

**8. Salem, Mass.** — Angel Echavarria has been released after spending 21 years behind bars for the 1994 shooting death of Daniel Rodriguez, The Associ-

ated Press reports. Echavarria said he did not commit the murder. Superior Court Judge David Lowy ordered the sentence vacated after ruling the prosecution's case was flawed. Prosecutors are reviewing the case to decide whether to drop charges or prepare new charges against Echavarria.

**9. Boston** — The Massachusetts Supreme Court has ruled that defendants can seek new trials if their convictions were based on mishandled drug samples, the New York Times reported. State chemist Annie Dookhan was responsible for tainted evidence in tens of thousands of criminal cases, officials said.

**10. Chicago** — Jarrett Adams has graduated from law school more than seven years after he was exonerated for a rape conviction that led to a 28-year prison sentence. He graduated from Loyola University with his law degree. He said he hopes to help others who are in similar situations, WBBM-TV reported.

**11. Detroit** — Gov. Rick Snyder says he wants to overhaul Michigan's criminal justice system to provide prison inmates with skills assessments and job training before they are released, The Associated Press reports. He made the comments in a speech at Goodwill Industries of Greater Detroit, a nonprofit career and job training organization. "This is about smart justice," Snyder said. "If someone has committed a crime, they should be punished. Helping them be successful coming out is a win for all of us."

# We Can Use Your Help

The *San Quentin News* is not supported financially by the California prison system and depends on outside assistance. If you would like to help, there are two ways, both of which are tax-deductable. To contribute with a check, send it to Prison Media Project, c/o Media Alliance, 1904 Franklin Street, No. 818, Oakland, CA 94612. Do not use this address for general correspondence. Instead, write to the San Quentin News, 1 Main Street, San Quentin, CA 94964. To contribute with a credit card, go to our website, [www.sanquentinnews.com](http://www.sanquentinnews.com), click on Support, and then on that page go to the bottom paragraph and click on Here. That will take you to the page where you can use a credit card. A forty dollars subscription will get you 12 issues, \$1.61 in stamps will get you one issue. The stamps should be sent to *SQ News* 1 Main street, San Quentin, CA. 94974. A special thanks goes to Marin Sun Printing in San Rafael where our paper is printed.

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\*Have made more than one donation



# Botched Lethal Injection Executions Spark National Debate on Death Penalty

By Charles David Henry  
Journalism Guild Writer

Death penalty states had great difficulty obtaining the combination of drugs needed to execute inmates in 2014. "This past year, the number of inmates executed in America was the lowest in two decades at 35," according to the Death Penalty Information Center. Part of the reason is that many pharmaceutical companies refuse to associate their drugs with killing people.

In a 2014 NPR story, veteran reporter Michael Kiefer of the *Arizona Republic* observed an execution that did not go well. The execution of double murderer Joseph Wood by the Arizona Department of Corrections was another botched attempt of "using a different drug formula for the first time."

What Kiefer and other witnesses saw was an execution that appeared to go smoothly, as they watched "the catheters being inserted," Kiefer said. Wood closed his eyes, put his head back and waited for what would normally take five to 10 minutes for a condemned man to die.

However, this was not a typi-



File photo

Michael Kiefer

cal execution. According to Kiefer, "It looked like executions I'd seen before using thiopental and pentobarbital."

But at the six-minute mark something unusual happened. Suddenly, Wood opened his mouth.

"His mouth sort of made this funny round shape, and you could see this expulsion of air, and we all jumped. This was something different," Kiefer said.

Wood began fighting for his life, taking large intermittent breathes. Then there was another and then another, and then it just kept going. Kiefer said, "I started putting little hash marks on my pad, my notepad, to see how many times he did this - 640 times."

The eyewitnesses looked at each other. Kiefer could see the panic on the faces of the prison personnel. No one spoke a word. Kiefer turned to the reporter sitting next to him and said, "I don't think he's going to die." According to the story, he wondered if Wood was going to "open his eyes again."

The executioner eventually came out, turned on the death chamber microphone and tried to reassure everyone that Wood was asleep, and it was OK. However, Kiefer tells a different story.

The sounds emanating from Wood were suddenly audible from behind the executioner's voice. These noises added another layer of distress on everyone who was a witness. Nearly two hours later, after administering 15 doses of "50 milligrams of midazolam, a sedative, and 50 milligrams of hydromorphone,

a narcotic," Wood died, Kiefer noted.

"A mess is good way to put it," says Maurie Levin, a capital defense attorney in Texas who has been doing most of the lethal injection litigation in the state that is the runaway death penalty leader, the report said.

Pharmaceutical companies' new stance has forced death penalty states to search for new drug combinations and new sources - compounding pharmacies, Levin said.

Pharmaceutical companies no longer want any association with the death penalty process for both moral and public relations reasons. "Their drugs are to be used for healing only," NPR reported.

According to the NPR story, the Texas Department of Criminal Justice and the department of corrections sent a letter to a compounding pharmacy in Houston saying, "We promise you that we will keep this on the down-low."

"Just like the big pharmaceutical companies, compounding pharmacies don't want to be associated with executions either. So when the name of the

pharmacy was disclosed in a court proceeding, the Houston compounding pharmacy was furious, embarrassed, and quit," NPR reported.

And the pharmacy asked for their drugs back, and the prison refused to give them back," Levin said.

Several states contend that identifying their drug suppliers should remain a state secret and not even judges should be able to find out. Jason Clark, a representative for the Texas Department of Criminal Justice, argues, "It's going to raise serious safety concerns for the business and its employees."

A Texas judge rejected Clark's argument, "ruling the name of the compounding pharmacy is public information." The state immediately appealed. This decision has set the stage for a new front on the legal war over the death penalty, the report said.

"A clean and painless death by injection has played a major role in preserving capital punishment in America. If that becomes a problem, it could complicate the institution's long-term survival," the NPR story concluded.

## 'And if I Can't Have it ... I'd Just Rather Die'

By S.Q. Reviews

"I want a real love, a real house, a real thing to do every day," Mark Wahlberg says, playing the lead in director Rupert Wyatt's *The Gambler*.

He's explaining to his love interest, Amy Phillips (Brie Larson), the reasons why he took the \$200,000 his mother gave him to pay his debt to dangerous men and bet it on a roulette wheel. "And if I can't have it ... I'd just rather die."

Jim Bennett (Wahlberg) is a literature professor who falls for a co-ed who stirs a desire strong enough to challenge his addiction. Wahlberg and John Goodman (a philosophical loan shark named Frank) give magnetic performances. Wyatt delivers an exciting movie, but after the initial rush fades, the story's messages leave the members of S.Q. Reviews cold.

We meet beside the Education

### MOVIE REVIEW

Building to discuss the film. Initially we liked the movie, though Rahsaan Thomas takes exception to how Bennett treats his mother. Special guest Richard Richardson thinks the screenwriter should've better conveyed the reason Bennett was angry with his mother.

"The movie is called *The Gambler*," John Chiu says. "Not the guy and his mother."

Chiu is from Hong Kong. We lovingly refer to him as our British talent.

"Fair enough." Richardson pats his French braids. "So tell me why this dude's gambling like he's crazy. His family is rich; he's smart as hell ... what else does he want?"

"He lost his grandfather, his father and, in some ways, his

mother," says Emile DeWeaver. "He has this life filled with loss, and he fills it with more loss in the hopes that one day he'll achieve that victory that'll make everything worth it. He wants his *real life* so bad that he's killing himself to get it, until he finds someone to live for."

"That's another problem with the movie," Thomas says. "All the stupid stuff he did, he *should've* died. Stuff doesn't just work out because you meet a hot blonde. It sends the wrong message that vacancy is filled by finding someone."

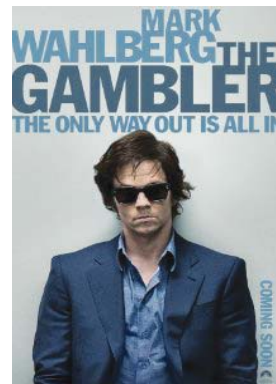
Reviewers shake their heads in agreement, and what began as general acclaim transforms into growing censorship of the cultural values expressed through the movie. The conversation

turns to how *The Gambler* uses stereotypes that reinforce a narrative of inequality.

"I have to ask this because I just shook my head when I saw it," Chiu says. "How do you guys feel about the fact that Bennett owes \$200,000 to an Asian gang that basically lets him slide throughout the movie? John Goodman loans him a bunch more money, but the Black guy is this hot head that wants to kill him over 10 grand."

"Actually, he wanted to kill him for insulting his hat," DeWeaver says. "That's even worse. But is the poor portrayal intentional or just a lack of imagination on the screenwriter's part?"

"Intentional," Chiu says. "John Goodman could've played the petty gangster, who'd kill you over a hat, and the Black guy could've been the wise godfather-criminal with great lines, but casting assigned those roles to specific people for specific



Mark Wahlberg in "The Gambler"

reasons. Is it coincidence that every intelligent, sophisticated role went to White actors while the minorities played cardboard cut-outs?"

We all enjoyed the movie when we watched it, but after we talked about it, the messages and narratives disturbed us. We give it a two out of five dinner cookies.

## Decades of Prison Experience Seen Through the Eyes of K. Brydon

By Juan Haines  
Managing Editor

It makes sense that fictional writers mostly write from what they know. Author Kenneth R. Brydon does just that.

"The intent of my writing is to provide reflection on life — that what is the 'norm' of society isn't always the reality lived out," Brydon said.

His more than three decades of experience as a prisoner in California's prison system has earned him the ability to tell stories about it with authority.

Brydon's short story, *Consensus of Death*, confirmed this by

### BOOK REVIEW

winning third place in the prestigious PEN American Center Award in the fiction category. For more than 40 years, PEN has been conducting contests for prisoners serving time in federal, state and county jails across the nation.

"Zoe Mullery has been an amazing instructor to me; her mentoring has made this award possible," Brydon said. He has attended Mullery's Creative Writing Workshop since 2004.

*Consensus of Death* is a story about a prisoner who is sent to the hole after his cellie commits suicide. It is a dialogue-driven work of fiction that grapples with the intricacies about prison life, unknown to the outside world.

Fellow prisoners, who read Brydon's take on the experience, might say that he's preaching to the choir; however, its authoritative and impactful storyline carries

an understanding of circumstance, no matter who is the reader.

"Writing untangles my thoughts," Brydon said.

His story could easily be script for a play or short movie. Brydon is the author of more than 30 short stories and three full length novels.

*Consensus of Death* is available to prisoners upon request by writing to *San Quentin News*. Free society can read it by going to [www.brothersinpen.wordpress.com](http://www.brothersinpen.wordpress.com).

*Editor's Note:* Brydon was editor-in-chief of *San Quentin News* in 2008.

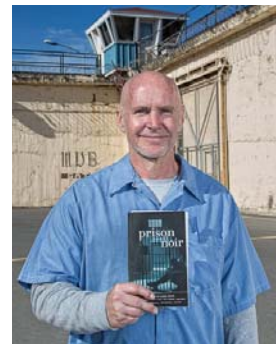


Photo by Peter Merts

Brydon's latest short story "Rat's Ass" is in *Prison Noir*



# Construction Tech Program Going Green

By Kevin D. Sawyer  
Journalism Guild Chairman

The Construction Technology trade at San Quentin State Prison is reaching new heights in providing training for inmates.

“We’re into the green technology now,” said Dante Callegari, instructor for the course. “We’re just starting the training now, but the equipment has been here for six months. This new training will add another year to our program.”

Callegari’s students are using new Lab-Volt Systems, Inc. smart training modules to learn how to install solar and wind energy systems, solar thermal energy systems, refrigeration, fire alarms, heating ventilation and air conditioning systems using smart technology.

According to Lab-Volt reading material, the present-day global ‘green’ initiative is the impetus for many countries to develop reusable energy. “By 2025 solar energy could generate 2.5 percent of the world’s electricity.”

Through the use of WiFi, Callegari explained how homeowners can control their home systems from anywhere in the world.

“This is an added bonus to our program,” said Callegari. “We’re going to have them show what they’ve learned.”

One of the lessons is on weatherization technology and how “Much of the energy used to heat and cool homes in the United States is wasted,” according to a student training guide.

Callegari said the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation (CDCR) sent him to Sacramento for four days of training on Lab-Volt equipment. “I went to their training facility to learn what to train students on,” said Callegari.

The class is generally referred to as building maintenance, which some say is misleading. Inmates tend to think of it as a janitorial course when it’s actually construction technology training.

“The Lab-Volt Solar/Wind Energy Training System is a modular program that covers

the history, fundamentals, installation, operation, maintenance, and servicing of alternative energy systems” according to its literature.

Duane Holt, one of 27 students in the class, demonstrated his working knowledge of home solar and wind electrical systems using a Lab-Volt smart module. He also has to do trouble-shooting on a panel to learn how to isolate problems.

“You have to understand theory and schematics,” said Holt. “The key is to get to where you’re not using energy” from the public power grid.

Tedrick Sims has been in the program for more than a year. Since starting the course, he says he has learned building framing from the basement up to the rafters, electrical wiring, gas lines, plumbing, sinks, water-tight roofing, geo thermal for heat, electrical windmills, and solar power.

“It’s an excellent program, and he (Dante) is an excellent teacher,” said Sims. “For younger people who will be working for the next 30 years, they should take the class. Even if they don’t want to work in the trade they should take the class if they plan to own a home.”

Sims said parolees are getting hired immediately and employers have called the prison to ask if there are other parolees who have graduated from the trade. So far 13 students have graduated and six of the graduates have agreed to return as teaching assistants.

“I think it’s important that I have six guys coming back and wanting to help train,” said Callegari. He said it makes it easier for him to train students who have not yet advanced.

According to Sean Luigs from Elite Supply Source, every CDCR instructor has a trade adviser; he is the adviser assigned to Callegari’s class. “I’ve been in all the prisons. They all operate different. The craziest (busiest) prison that I’ve been to is Corcoran.” He said it is because everyone is running around doing something productive in the shops. “San Quentin is my favorite.”

In addition to the hands-on training modules, students



Photo by Raphaelae Casale

Trade adviser Sean Luigs and instructor Dante Callegari using PowerPoint to instruct class

study material furnished by the National Center for Construction Education and Research (NCCER). The books divide various aspects of construction technology into modules, focusing on everything from the introduction to craft skills, safety, masonry, roofing, and pipe fitting.

The “NCCER is a not-for-profit 501 (c )(3) education foundation established in 1995 by the world’s largest and most progressive construction companies and national construction associations,” according to the Contren Learning Series (CLS) books. The curriculum was adopted by the CDCR about a decade ago.

The NCCER provides transcript records through a National Registry that it maintains. It also provides certificates and wallet cards to those who have completed modules in the CLS.

“This class is lucky to have Dante,” said Luigs. “It’s more than his knowledge; it’s his wisdom.”

Luigs also takes part in training the students. He used a PowerPoint presentation to instruct them on how to use the new technology. “I think it gives them (inmates) inspiration.”

Before prison, inmate Marco Villa, who has been in the class for more than a year, worked framing construction, but at San Quentin he said he has ac-



Photo by Raphaelae Casale

Lab-Volt Systems smart training module



Photo by Raphaelae Casale

Duane Holt (second from left) and students standing in front of electrical training module



Photo by Raphaelae Casale

Construction Technology class assembled in front of the house they built



# Music, Spoken Word, Poetry, Comedy... All Flourish at S.Q.'s First Lower Yard Show



Photo by Raphale Casale

G. Mesro Coles-El entertains the audience with a piece called, 'The World is Just a Ghetto'



Photo by Raphale Casale

Billy Hazelton and Jens O. Brazwell plays 'Aint no Sunshine'



Photo by Raphale Casale

'Banda Paisa' performs traditional Mexican music for the Spanish speaking audience

By Juan Haines  
Managing Editor

A talent show on the Lower Yard of San Quentin State Prison on May 31 was the first of what is planned as an annual event on the Lower Yard. Acts included spoken word, poetry, music and comedy.

The crowd erupted in applause when Billy Hazelton and Jens O. Brazwell took to the stage and performed classic Rhythm and Blues.

Brazwell said that he has been singing *Ain't No Sunshine* since the song came out in 1974. He has been a musician since he was 10 years old.

"It can be a relief. When you're playing music it's like an out of body experience," Brazwell said.

Brazwell has been incarcerated four years and has been at San Quentin just over a month. He was also at San Quentin before, around 2003.

"It was different then," he said. "Now, with all the programs, people are getting out."

Hazelton dedicated *Ain't No Sunshine* to his son, Dennis.

Hazelton has been incarcerated 21 years and has been at San Quentin about year and a half.

"I was fortunate to find Jens (Brazwell) here," Hazelton said.

The comedy acts of Aaron "Harun" Taylor and Eric Durr got the attention of inmate Jarvis "Lady Jae" Clark.

"When Harun did the *I Am*, it was so moving," said Clark, who was sitting on a wall, back-stage. "He was speaking on a spiritual thing. That God is with everyone. He said, 'I am that person sitting on the wall.' and 'I am Jarvis.'"

Clark commented on Durr's comedy routine saying, "Here you had this man look at me, and it was a true recognition of me as a person. It was an acknowledgement to me as a person. I was proud to know both of them. They were comfortable within themselves. They may not agree with my lifestyle, but they respect me as a person."

Hip-Hop performers, Lemar "Maverick" Harrison, Antwan "Banks" Williams, and Harry "ATL" Smith entertained the crowd with several spiritually-

based pieces.

I love the chance to give the testimony of my transformation," Banks said. That's why we performed, *Beast, Broken and Battered*, and *He's Coming Back Fo'Real*."

*Beast* describes the story of who we used to be before coming to the Lord, Banks said.

Its message is regardless of mistakes, we all have redeemable traits to the betterment of life.

*He's Coming Back Fo'Real* is a hard-core gospel anthem to motivate the younger generation to believe in the Lord.

"It's a great thing to be part of a community that allows us to bear the fruit of our transformation," "ATL" Smith said. "Shout out to Mother Jackson. We love her because she's the one who got us on this hype."

*The World is Just a Ghetto*, performed by G. Mesro Coles-El captivated the audience with its informative, yet rhythmic message: *The world has to know the truth. Somebody has to tell it. The war on drugs is a war on people.*

Several bands also entertained



Photo by Raphale Casale

Performers Lemar "Maverick" Harrison and Antwan "Banks" Williams please the crowd with a spirituality rap piece

the audience, including *Banda Pisa* with traditional Mexican music that can be described as festively jolly, with vibrant guitar picking and harmonic vocals.

Richie Morris played a couple of original songs, *Bright LA Lights* and *I Can't See You Anymore*, along with *A Moment in Time*, by Dwight Krizman.

"To those who have courage

to get up here and do something good, thank you," Krizman said.

John Neblett read *The River Man*, by Elizabeth Bishop.

"It's about my ancestor's culture in the Amazon," he said. My great-grandfather is said to be half-Amazon Indian, by way of Barbados, which is 99 percent black. So, this poem means a lot to me."

## Is Rap Your Daddy? Was Rap Music My Dad?

### Yard Talk

By Rahsaan Thomas  
Staff Writer

Green numbers 6-6-6 surround by red flames tattooed on the face of his 18-year-old son were the first thing Demond Lewis noticed in the picture. He sat on his bunk, bewildered, staring at the photo his sister had sent. He wondered why his son would think a tattoo on his face was a good idea. Then he remembered listening to Scarface's *Last of a Dying Breed*. He remembered the influence rap music had on him growing up. He remembered that when the state sentenced him to 109 years to life for shooting a man in the leg, he left his son without a positive male role model. Is rap music raising his son?

"Me and my son argue because he put tattoos on his face," said Lewis. "That's part of hip hop culture. I had to tell

him, 'Dude, you have a rapper's look without a rapper's money. Who is going to hire you?'"

In broken homes, rap music often replaces the male role model at the critical time when adolescents are trying to find their identity. Several prisoners got together on San Quentin's Lower Yard to discuss whether the influence of rap music is as powerful as the presence of a father.

Antoine Watie views rap music as an influence that replaced his father because it filled the void of a male role model in his life. It was from rap music that he learned about the birds and the bees, what clothes to wear in his community, that working a 9-5 job was for suckers, that all women were "hoes" except his mother, and that "respect was king" to be gained at all cost, even if it meant killing another man.



Photo by Sam Hearn

Members of the Yard Talk panel discussing the effects of rap music

**Antoine Watie:** "Every area that my parents dropped the ball, rap was there to pick it up. Rap taught me to love only money. When I should have known that drugs were bad, I was taught by Easy E that the dope man was something to aspire to be."

**John "Yahya" Johnson:**

"Rap was my daddy. When I ran the streets, I considered myself an orphan. I listened to the OGs (older guys); I considered Ice Cube an authority [on life]."

**Richard "Bonaru" Richardson:** "You could say rap was sort of like a father figure, but I looked up more to the members of my gang as father figures. I

used rap to create an identity for myself."

**David Jassy,** the 40-year-old Swedish rapper, has a different perspective.

**Jassy:** "Rap was my homeboy, not my daddy. My dad was a doctor. I would listen to him more than I did to rap. You hang out with your homeboy and talk about stuff your parents usually didn't say. Dad has a different role."

Not everyone on the panel agreed that rap music was their daddy. But one thing is for sure: all of them concur that it was a powerful influence in their lives. For most, rap music was like a father – it taught them how to be "men." For others rap music was a friend, relating to them in a way only friends can. Either way, rap meant more than entertainment.

*Next in this six-part series, the panel will explore what specific influences the genre had on them.*

*Trenise Ferreira contributed to this story.*



# Veterans' Dramas Reveal Life After Military

By Charles David Henry  
Journalism Guild Writer

"Veterans need help" was the message that resonated in a play performed just days before Memorial Day by a group of incarcerated inmates representing San Quentin's Veterans Healing Veterans from the Inside Out.

The performance was a back story about 12 veterans who shared personal reasons for joining the U.S. Air Force, Army, Coast Guard, Marine Corps and Navy.

"I joined the Navy because I have a great love for my country," the sailor said. "I joined the Air Force because I wanted to protect my country," said the airman.

Each veteran's story was a personal insight into his enthusiasm for joining the military and supporting his country, but the eventual outcome of protecting the United States and its special interest throughout the world, leaves them in a deep, dark, desperate and depressive psychotic condition. There are things in those experiences they will not forget.

Their stories revealed how the proud and few who served their country eventually became victims of the United States War Machine, a metaphorical description of the government's passion for putting its resources on the front line throughout the world.

For years, veterans have been ordered to kill the enemy of the War Machine. This indoctrination starts in Basic Training and is drilled into their psyche during advance training or on battlefields.

Vietnam-era veterans were portrayed as despicable war mongers. After 9/11, the image of a veteran fighting in the Iraqi and Afghanistan wars was portrayed as a hero. Despite what war veterans serve in, they are trained to become a killing apparatus.

The play showed that once the veteran was removed from that environment, in many in-



Photo by Leroy Lucas

This scene depicts a military firing range and a young teen gets shot

stances he became a liability. Returning to civilian life was a virtual nightmare. Family and relationships were strained and in most situations, destroyed.

***"No one really  
cares nor  
understands  
what goes on in  
the mind of the  
veteran who lives  
daily with the  
stress of killing  
another human"***

Their performances elucidated the problems of homelessness. In many cities throughout the country, veterans who make up a very large percentage of that population are alco-

holics and dope addicts. Several actors played out their roles as alcoholics and drug abusers. In another reenactment, veterans were seen mimicking their military duties.

In one scene, the fury of Hell was released upon them. The veterans were seen struggling as they attempted to adjust to the normal routine of everyday life. Every thing he did was a challenge, filled with mental and physical anguish.

Throughout the performance, actors continued to demonstrate the effects of war. For many years, a quiet storm of mental depression never caught the public's attention. One of the actors told the audience, "No one really cares nor understands what goes on in the mind of the veteran who lives daily with the stress of killing another human."

The audience was given insight into how medical experts aren't quite prepared to take on



Photo by Leroy Lucas

Sayriah plays a character that demonstrates a Taliban woman being shot with a baby in her hand



Photo by Leroy Lucas

This scene portrays captured American soldiers by religious militants

the many challenges the veteran confronts after spending time in these war zone battlefields, such as how evidence-based studies used to diagnose Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) have not cured this illness; and that the Veteran Administration is a dysfunctional operation of applications, forms, contradictions and apathy.

For several of the actors, their performances gave them a real sense of purpose.

There is growing evidence that PTSD is a contributing factor to the high rate of violence among military personnel.

According to *Frontline*, between 2002 and 2009, there were 14 murders committed by post-combat Army personnel stationed at Fort Carson.

One reminder for the American public that relates to the side effects of war is the number of veterans who commit suicide.

In the years since the start of the Middle East wars, more than 73,000 American veterans have committed suicide. In September 2009, 18 veterans were committing suicide a day. Today, that number is up to 22 a day or more than 8,000 a year, according to the *Suicide Katz Study*.

Ron Self, founder of Veterans Healing Veterans from the Inside Out, told the audience, today, by the time this performance ends, "12 veterans have already committed suicide. We need to save our veterans from these tragic consequences."



# A's Edge Santa Monica Suns, 13-12

By Marcus Henderson  
Journalism Guild Writer

In a back and forth nail-bitter, the San Quentin A's edged the San Monica Suns, 13-12. Traveling six hours and hundreds of miles from Los Angeles County, the Suns faced the first game of a double-header.

The Suns opened up the first inning with two quick singles and a double by Zach Mann for a 2-0 lead.

A's pitcher Reggie Hunt readjusted and found the strike zone to closed the Suns out.

The A's answered with three runs. Cleo Cloman walked, and then Carlyle "Otter" Blake stepped to the plate, belting a deep ball to right field for a triple.

Anthony Denard, A's shortstop, hit a double to bring in Blake and later scored off a sacrifice fly from Royce Rose.

"It's good to be able to make plays both on defense and batting. It's also good to be on a team that will pick you up if you're down," said Rose.

The A's put up three scores in the second for a 6-2 lead.

"They are out-playing us. They have good defense and the wind isn't helping," said Sun Sanjay Nagarkar.

The Suns scored two runs in the fourth. After two walks, Suns coach Bob Sharkan stepped to the plate and belted a line drive to deep center field for a double.

The Suns closed the gap 6-4.

"No matter who you are,



Photo by Raphaelle Casale

## Bilal Coleman attempts to bunt the ball

you've got to go out there and play," said Sharkan.

The Suns' defense also picked

up, catching the A's Cloman twice in a pickle after attempting steals.

In the fifth, the A's pitcher found himself with the bases loaded. Hunt walked in two runs to tie the game 6-6.

Hunt was relieved by Gary "Cool Aid" Townes.

Townes gave up a single to Suns Nick Onorato to drive in a run for the 7-6 lead.

"I was struggling. I'm just glad to get the bat on the ball. These guys are better than some of the teams in our league," said Onorato.

The A's scored three times to retake the lead, 9-7. The Suns added four runs in sixth to recapture lead 11-9.

The A's move back in front off

a RBI single from Bilal Coleman. Blake drove in two runs with a double for the 11-10 lead.

"I broke my slump. I'm back in this," said Coleman.

Cloman broke two bats and was rewarded with a single. Blake pop out to right field, bring up Denard who hit a line drive past third base for a single.

Denard stole second base. Chris Marshall then belted a deep ball between center and left field to send Cloman and Denard home for the 13-12 win.

"It was a good game. We started with a little jitters, but we shook it off. They came with a push and we pushed back. We helped carry each other for the win," said the A's Ama Upumoni.

# 7 Giants Errors Hand 7-3 Victory to Santa Monica Suns

The visiting Santa Monica Suns completed a doubleheader by defeating the San Quentin Giants, 7-3.

"These games are always a blessing," said Suns head coach Bob Sharkan.

"We have been coming in here for at least eight years now. I write and thank the warden every year for this baseball program. I believe in this program; it helps many people. It brings people together from different backgrounds, as one on the field.

"Over the years, I bought in a lot guys and we lost good players. But some of these guys bring in their own teams now," Sharkan said. "I guess you can say we are a victim of our own success. But no matter how far we travel, we love to donate our time or whatever is needed for this program."

Rasheed Lockhart of the Giants added, "It's a pleasure to play these outside teams. They care, and it's not too many

people who care. Even though we lost, everybody played hard. This was my favorite game of the year. These guys (the Suns) are like old friends coming to see you. They make you feel human."

Both teams had to battle the dusty winds on the dry baseball field.

The Suns got 10 hits as the Giants failed to field the ball. The Suns scored four runs in the third.

Vinnie Disanti hit a line drive to shortstop Nico Vegas, who lost the ball as it popped out of his glove. This allowed Nick Onorato to score after he drove in two runs off a double to center field.

The Giants racked up seven errors, which kept them out the game.

John Appley walked Alex Martinez. Sun Sanjay Nagarkar belted a deep ball to right field for a triple for the 4-0 lead. The Suns score three more times in the fifth off two

singles and a double by Bob Sharkan.

The Giants managed to score in the third, fourth, and the seventh but never closed the gap.

"It's was like playing on Mars out there fighting those winds," said Giant Trevor Bird.

Giant Antonio "Boobie" Cavitt added, "I'm just enjoying this. I parole in a couple of months. I got so many life lessons out of this time and this program, so when I leave, I'm taking God with me first and a positive attitude.

"I can't wait to see my grandkids. All I can say is we should always celebrate someone going home."

The Suns shared their own joy; brothers Alex and Anthony Martinez got to see each other.

"I don't get to see Alex often, since he lives in Los Angeles, so him traveling up here to play these guys was good," said Anthony.

Alex added, "This is the first time me and my brother played on the same team. This is a good cause and I'm glad he came out with us."

The June 6 doubleheader (the other game was against the S.Q. A's) found everyone in high spirits.

"This is a once-in-a-lifetime experience" said Sun Zach Mann.

Giants' pitcher Appley finished with, "I didn't have a good game, but these guys came all this way for us and we thank them for coming."

—Marcus Henderson

## Diego Brothers Hammer Hardtimers, 32-15, in Softball



Photo By Sam Hearnes

### Hardtimer DuPreist Brown rounding past Diego Brother JD Diego

The visiting Diego Brothers softball team crushed the San Quentin Hardtimers, 32-15.

The Hardtimers failed to turn a double play to close the second inning, opening the door to 13 Diego Brothers runs.

With the bases loaded and one out, Diego Brother Todd Morris hit a fly ball between second and first base. Hardtimer second baseman Paul Oliver dropped the ball, allowing two runs to score. Oliver then over-threw first as another run scored.

"I don't know what happened. Nothing was working. Our defense wasn't happening. It wasn't because of a lack of effort. The guys didn't give up. We just couldn't put together a string of hits either," said Hardtimers head coach Dan White.

Oliver added, "It was really windy. It made the ball really tricky to get to. Overall, I'm just happy to play these guys. They are a great fundamental softball team. They came to give us their time and I treat it like a visit."

In the sixth, the Diego Brothers

put up seven more runs. With bases loaded again, Diego Brother Ryno Fisher belted the ball to deep right field for a triple and the 29-3 lead.

"No matter what the score is, I enjoy playing these guys. Any of us could have been in this position. So if I was here, I would want people to come here and do this for me," said Fisher.

The Hardtimers did have one bright moment in the sixth. John "Dunnie" Windham sky rocketed a home run over the Arc Building, driving in three RBIs.

The Diego Brothers didn't let up, scoring three more times, while the Hardtimers scored eight to close out the day.

The June 5 game was windy with few onlookers, but it ended in high spirits.

"We always look forward to coming here and helping out. They are a good group of guys and I never feel threatened coming here," said J.D. Diego, head coach of the Diego Brothers.

—Marcus Henderson

## Sonoma Stompers Blank San Quentin All-Stars, 12-0

By Marcus Henderson  
Journalism Guild Writer

The semi-pro Sonoma Stompers put on a baseball clinic for the San Quentin All-Stars, pounding them 11-0.

"Their pitchers came out throwing heat. They were unhittable. The All-Stars did have pretty good defense. We just haven't seen a team of this caliber all season," said Michael "Sparky" Lain, the Giants' statistician.

The All-Stars were selected from the S.Q. A's and Giants rosters to face the Stompers, a team in the Pacific Association of Professional Baseball Clubs.

"I have a 92-mile-an-hour fast ball," commented Stompers pitcher Mark Jackson. "Today I threw a lot of junk: curve balls and sliders.

"I was nervous at first, coming to play in a prison. Everyone is so cool, so I calmed down and got into the competition. It's an experience. I'm loving this; I might not be able to do this again."

Sean Bison, Stompers assistant general manager, said, "We sign people from different



Photo by Sam Hearn

### Giant Angelo Mecchi at bat

colleges and semi-pro teams. We signed Gregory Paulino; he throws 89-90-miles-an-hour."

Paulino is from the Dominican Republic and played for an Oakland A's farm team before he injured his arm.

He closed the game for the Stompers.

John Appley, Giants All-Star, said, "It's challenging to go up against that type of pitching. To play a semi-pro team was everything I expected."

The May 28 game was a part

of the Stompers' spring training.

A crowd of about 30 gathered to cheered and boo almost every play.

"Baseball helps you deal with failure. It's about perception. Like, I think this game benefits us more. It lets our guys know that baseball is more than just business. It's about passion, and playing you guys (All-Stars) shows them that," said Stompers general manager Theo Fightmaster.

The All-Stars pitchers faced some big hitters.

"I led our league in home runs and RBIs last season. Different pitchers throw you different looks. So you learn how to hit at different speeds. The main thing: always be at your best; you don't know who's watching," said Joel Carranza, Stompers first baseman.

The only one to hit a home run was Stomper Andrew Parker.

He belted A's Chris Marshall's pitch deep over the center field gate.

"It's a pleasure to face those guys. They are professionals, and we got a chance to play them in prison. You don't get that anywhere else," said Marshall.



# Eddie Herena Breaks Another 1000 Mile Club Record

By Marcus Henderson  
Journalism Guild Writer

Eddie Herena added a new record to his achievements when he broke the one-hour run record of the San Quentin 1000 Mile Club.

He completed 9-3/8 miles in 60 minutes, besting Ronnie Goodman's record of 9.25 miles in 2009.

Herena, 32, also "holds the San Quentin 1000 Mile Club record for the one-mile, three-mile, 5,000 meters and six-mile races, as well as being a member of the record-setting distance medley and 4x1-mile relay teams," said coach Frank Ruona.

Reynaldo Campos, 38, took second place with 8 and 7/8 miles.

"I'm happy. Training with the club, playing soccer and basketball helped my conditioning to finish," said Campos.

Sergio Carrillo, 41, took third with 8-13/16 miles completed. Carlos Ramirez, 37, was fourth with 8-5/8.



Photo by Sam Hearn

1000 Club members racing around the San Quentin Lower Yard track

The May 22 run had a diverse group of runners. Seventy-year-old Steve Wilson inspired the runners and the crowd.

Although a few runners dropped out, Wilson finished. "I've been running 30 or 40

miles a month. I never ran an hour before; I ran at my pace, and running with my friend John Levin helped me," said Wilson.

Outside trainers Kevin and Suzanna "Zany" Rumon were

two of six official lap counters.

"Running helps you to go somewhere else for an hour," said Rumon.

Suzanna added, "Everybody runs their own race, but running with others helps build

relationships. Plus you can take running anywhere you go."

The gloomy day did keep the runners cool as they made their way around the uneven track.

"This was the perfect weather to race and to have the outside guests makes the race legitimate. When you run, you just have to make a plan and stick with it," said Steve Reitz, 39.

Reitz ran 8-1/4 in 60 minutes, coming in ninth.

Alberto Mendez, 60, and Abdel Kader Morceli, 32, were coming off leg injuries but were happy to test their strength to compete.

Morceli came in fifth with 8.5 miles. Mendez ran 7-1/8.

First-time runner Danny Plunkett, 45, put in 7.5 miles in an hour.

"I usually run for 20 minutes. I got into a zone and told myself I just need to double my time," said Plunkett.

After the race, all the 1000 Mile Running Club members received a pair of new running shoes from the club issued by coach Ruona.

## Warriors Executive of the Year Competes At San Quentin in Midst of Tense Playoff Run

*Continued from Page 1*

as well, nailing jump shots and helping the Green Team take a 17-point first quarter lead. He was the Green Team's second leading scorer with 23 points. By halftime, Myers had 19 points and 11 rebounds and the Green Team was ahead, 49-26.

At halftime, S.Q. Warrior GM Robert "Bishop" Butler addressed all participants at mid-court, along with Christian Sports Ministry's Green Team player Brandon Curtis.

"Whatever you do, act like the world is watching," said Butler in his inspirational message.

Curtis advised, "Use your time wisely, because you never know how the Lord will use it to make you prosper."

The S.Q. Warriors had a chance to win in the fourth quarter. After being down 20 points in the first half, Harry "ATL" Smith led them back to within four.

Smith stole the ball and dribbled down court for a layup to make the score 81-77 with 50 seconds left in the game.

However, former overseas pro Griffin Reilly sealed the deal for the Green Team by driving baseline, coming up under the far side of the basket for a reverse. He was fouled and completed the "and-one," making the score 84-77.

The S.Q. Warriors tried intentional fouling to stop the clock but couldn't complete the comeback.

Smith was unstoppable. He scored several times with his shoulder pressed against the chest of defenders. He made 14 of 20 shots and led the Warriors with 30 points and 10 rebounds.

"ATL is tough. If you take away the basket, he'll hit you with a jumper," said Reilly.

Allan McIntosh added 20 points. Anthony Ammons had a double-double, scoring 13 points and snatching 12 rebounds. However, Ammons only hit 5 of 23 shots from the field.

The Green Team came with one of the deepest rosters of talent they ever brought into San Quentin. The depth of young talent made them better than the last time Myers played in Quentin with former NBA players Luke Walton and Jarren Collins as teammates. They lost the September 2014 game to the S.Q. Warriors, 92-88, when Myers dropped 27 points.

The Green Team also lost its first two games of the 2015 San Quentin basketball season.

"We went down 0-2; we have to bring all the big guns," said Ilegbodu.

They returned with former overseas pros Evan Fjelds and Reilly; former Washington Generals Antoine Maddox, and several former college players like Pat Lacey, Kyle Flowers, Justis Willis, Ilegbodu, Charles Lowery, and Mike Picone, plus Curtis. Also suited up in Green for the first time in two years was recent Washington University (in St. Louis) graduate and ex-point guard Kent Lacob, Kirk's brother and a future Golden State employee.

"They brought in some good talent. Sometimes basketball IQ and teamwork can outdo athleticism and potential," said Smith.

Kent Lacob came off the bench and got a steal as soon as he entered the game. He also connected with his brother to drop a three-pointer.



Photo by Krissi Khokhobashvili

Bob Myers (center) surrounded by S.Q. Warriors and Green Team during pep talk

Myers, who is 40 years old, was recently chosen as the NBA Executive of the Year.

"It's an award that singles me out but you can't get that without a lot of help," confided Myers. "To be voted on by other GMs means a lot."

Myers plays like a man who should have been a pro. Averaging 32 points a game, he has led the Green Team in scoring every time he played in San Quentin — even with former NBA players as teammates. He did play for UCLA's 1995 championship team.

"I was 5-foot-7 in high school. I didn't get good at basketball until my senior year at college. I missed my window," said Myers, who is now about 6-foot-7.

After the game, S.Q. Warrior Smith expressed the team's appreciation that the Golden State executives had taken the time to come into San Quentin. "Here we are here incarcerated and, through basketball, meeting guys who are doing great things out in the world," he said.



Photo by Krissi Khokhobashvili

Myers whips the ball to his open teammate



# Vets Pay Tribute to the Fallen on Memorial Day

By Juan Haines  
Managing Editor

On the chilly Monday morning observed as Memorial Day, seven flags flew over San Quentin State Prison's Lower Yard, one flag for each branch of the U.S. armed services and two for Vietnam veterans.

As aging veterans doing time paid tribute to the fallen soldiers of wars fought throughout American history, other inmates attended to the American Indians' sacred grounds, played sports or just lingered around the track.

On a makeshift stage decorated with the American flag and POW-MIA flags, the names, ages, military branches and hometowns of soldiers who were killed in action were read aloud. After each acknowledgment, inmate-veteran Al Garner tolled a bell.

"It is a great honor to work with these veterans inside here," said Mary Donovan, chief sponsor of one of San Quentin's veterans groups, before she went onstage to read off names.

On this Memorial Day, 1,145 names were honored. In the past three years, 3,285 names have been read during Veterans Day and Memorial Day observances. All the fallen service members of Operation Iraqi Freedom (OIF) from 2003 to 2012 have been read. Operation Enduring Freedom (OEF) is an ongoing war that continues to yield casualties. To date, San Quentin inmates have read over 1,400 names of Killed In Action (KIA) from OEF.

At noon, 35 inmate-veterans assembled in formation on the Lower Yard for presentation of the colors by Craig Johnson, Norfleet Stewart, David Tarvin and Tedrick Sims. As the inmate-veterans saluted the American flag, Larry "Popeye" Fasion performed taps.

"Even though we're behind bars, we're still veterans," said Johnson, 58, a Vietnam veteran who served in the Navy. "All have given some, but some have given all. It is these men and

women we're honoring today."

One of the oldest veterans at San Quentin is Lawson J. Beavers, who was born on March 25, 1935. "I served two tours in the Far East and in Korea," Beavers said. Imprisoned 17 years, he has been at San Quentin for six years.

Inmates performed "Now I Have Arrived," an original song by inmate Richie Morris, with Morris playing a guitar decorated with the American flag, Dwight Krizman playing drums on a five-gallon bucket and Isaiah Daniels playing bass.

"I think of it not so much as a melancholy day. It's in honor of those who survived, too," Morris said before their performance.

Toward the end of the day, a prisoner named Isaiah Thompson-Bonilla, vice president of Veterans Healing Veterans, divulged some astonishing numbers connected to the OIF and OEF war campaigns. "In 14 years since the start of the Iraqi War, and including the Afghanistan War, less than 1 percent of Americans have served in the armed forces. That is just under 2 million people.

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***"We all came home with scars, not only on the outside, but on the inside"***

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Of that number, approximately 500,000 were engaged in intensive combat operations. Seven-thousand Americans have been killed in action during that time. The tragedy is that 73,000 plus men and women returning from the combat zone have committed suicide, as a result of not being able to manage their PTSDs," Thompson-Bonilla said. During September 2009, 18 veterans a day were committing suicide. That number has increased to 22 a day at present, or approximately 8,030 suicides a year.



Photo by Steve Emrick

The San Quentin Color Guard opens the Memorial Day tribute with a ceremonial display of the American and POW flags

Thompson-Bonilla, who was a sergeant first class, served in combat in eight countries, from Bosnia to Africa to the Mediterranean. "We all came home with scars, not only on the outside, but on the inside," he said.

He also expressed the need to recognize these men and women as well. "These men and women returned home from the war, but the war lived on inside their heads, and because they were unable to find or utilize the help that is available, suicide became the solution to their dilemma. Today, we remember those who committed suicide due to their experiences in war - they too have paid the ultimate sacrifice," Thompson concluded.

Members of the Hawaiian Spiritual Dance Group — Davante Spires, Reggie "My Tribe" Hola, Damon Cooke, Pangthong and Donald Ray Walker Jr. — closed the tribute with a prayer summoning fallen warriors of the past to pay respect "to elders and fallen soldiers."

(Walker was in the Navy from

2002-2007. He served two tours in Persian Gulf on board the USS Nimitz, CVN-68.)

During the day, special tribute was paid to the recent suicide of

veterans group Vice-Chairman Jesse Hernandez. A memorial service was held for Hernandez on May 29 at the prison's Protestant Chapel.



Photo by Steve Emrick

Albert Garner chimes the bell after a fallen soldier's name is announced



Photo by Steve Emrick

Veterans wait to announce names to honor deceased military members

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# San Quentin News

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Photo by Brian Asay

S.Q. News Adviser W. Drummond, Congresswoman Jackie Speier, Editor-in-Chief Arnulfo T. Garcia, Press Secretary Katrina Rill and TV Writer Mike Larson

## Congresswoman Jackie Speier Given Insight Into Prison Rehab

By Juan Haines  
Managing Editor

Congresswoman Jackie Speier ventured inside San Quentin State Prison to hear firsthand about incarceration, rehabilitation and reentry from 26 inmates whose crimes included Three-Strikes, burglary, rob-

bery and murder.

"I was taken profoundly by the adjustment that so many of the men made in their lives," Speier said. "Most people have no idea and think that you don't change."

The forum began by the inmates talking about how their lives were impacted when they

were housed in maximum security (level IV) prisons.

"There were few programs, and the people had a lot of time to serve," Miguel Quezada, 33, said. "There are men who never think about rehabilitation. It's about survival. There's no

See S.Q. News on Page 4

## Lethal Weapon Star Hits the Yard

By J.R. Abernathy Jr.  
Journalism Guild Writer



Photo by Lt. S. Robinson

Actor Danny Glover with CO Frazier and Lt. Walls

You weren't seeing things. That really was the actor from the "Lethal Weapon" movies crossing the yard at San Quentin.

Veteran actor Danny Glover was the latest celebrity guest to visit the state's oldest prison.

On June 8, 2015, Glover walked into the Victim Offender Education Group (VOEG) in the middle of their class.

"I was surprised about how personable he was and how I instantly felt comfortable

See Danny on Page 8

## 15 Men Cited for Ministry Skills At 4th Annual Theological Graduation

By Wesley Eisiminger  
Staff Writer

It took more than two and a half years for 15 San Quentin Prison men in blue to finish a religiously based college course that they say not only changed their lives, but also changed how their families see them.

"It's a blessing to know that I'm no longer considered as the black sheep of my family but as the person who



Photo by Sam Hearn

Dr. Iorg and Darryl Hill Sr.

has been transformed into a mighty man of God heralding the Gospel of Jesus Christ through my actions," said graduate Kevin Carr Sr.

The Golden Gate Baptist Theological Seminary curriculum emphasizes spiritual growth. Its lessons use biblically based scholarship to help students develop ministry skills in a multicultural setting.

See Theological on Page 14

## Exploring Injustices In Mass Incarceration

By Rahsaan Thomas  
Sports Editor

More than 200 people from across America met inside San Quentin State Prison for a (Restoring Our Original True Selves) ROOTS symposium exploring the best ways to stop mass incarceration and immigration injustices.

Proposed solutions included allowing rehabilitated men, who are first time offenders or com-

mitted their crimes while under 23 years old, have a chance to be released. Speakers also advocated against the school-to-prison-to-deportation pipeline.

The solutions were recommended by prisoners in the ROOTS program, who also spoke about cultural trauma passed from parents to children.

ROOTS is mainly a group of Asian and Pacific Islands in-

See Mass on Page 10



Photo by Sam Hearn

Wilson Chen tells an inspirational story about his life

## S.Q. 2015 Avon Annual Breast Cancer Walk for A Cure



Dr. E. Tootell, T. Foss and Chief Deputy Warden K. Mitchell during the 2013 Avon Breast Cancer Walk

San Quentin State Prison's Lower Yard was the setting for the annual Avon 39 The Walk to End Breast Cancer on the weekend of July 11 and 12. ([avon39.org](http://avon39.org))

In the past, each day the event has drawn about 150 inmates and 50 community member who walk laps around the prison's Lower Yard.

The fundraiser was created seven years ago by inmate organizers of San Quentin CARES and on average has annually brought in about \$10,000, with inmates contributing about \$2,000.

Several inmate self-help groups co-sponsor the walk, including San Quentin TRUST, The Richmond Project, Kid CAT, Alliance For Change, Thespians, The 1,000 Mile Club, The Work, Kairos and No More Tears.

Due to an early deadline for this issue, our report on the Avon Walk will appear in the *San Quentin News* next month.



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Prisoners United in the Craft of Journalism  
In collaboration with students from the



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The San Quentin News encourages inmates, free staff, custody staff, volunteers and others outside the institution to submit articles. All submissions become property of the San Quentin News.

Please use the following criteria when submitting:

- Limit your articles to no more than 350 words.
- Know that articles will be edited for content and length.
- The newspaper is not a medium to file grievances. (For that, use the prison appeals process.) We encourage submitting articles that are newsworthy and encompass issues that will have an impact on the prison populace.
- Please do not use offensive language in your submissions.
- Poems and art work (cartoons and drawings) are welcomed.
- Letters to the editor should be short and to the point.

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# Catholic Choir Director Departs for New Position

'These days we utilize more contemporary liturgical music'

By A. Kevin Valvardi  
Journalism Guild Writer

Sister Karen Conover will be winding up 15 years as director of San Quentin's Catholic Chapel choir for a new ministry.

She will be departing in August for a new role of "internal community service" to the retired sisters who live in an assisted and skilled nursing community at their mother house complex in Dubuque, Iowa.

Sister Karen, BVM, had been ministering to the men of San Quentin's Our Lady of the Rosary Catholic Chapel with her singing and music since September 1999, when she was first invited to visit by Franciscan Brother Rufino Zaragoza, OFM.

"It was a chance meeting. I came and was hooked. In those days we had about 200 men in orange at the services," Sister Karen says of her initial visit.

She belongs to the Sisters of Charity of the Blessed Virgin Mary. She began her primary ministry teaching high school chemistry at St. Paul's Parish in San Francisco from 1980 to 1994, where she also taught choral for a brief time and has led the Saturday afternoon parish music program since 1981.

In 1995 she transferred to Holy Names High School, an all-girls school in San Francisco, where she also taught chemistry.

"I enjoy making chemistry accessible to students, especially girls, whether practical or mathematical, in order to help girls to believe it's accessible," she said.

She says that she likes teenagers, especially high school juniors, "because they're old enough to start being their own person but not too old to get 'senioritis.'"

Regarding her ministry at San Quentin, Sister Karen pointed out that she has a lot of experience choosing appropriate music for the readings and seasons, declaring, "These days we utilize more contemporary liturgical music."

"Outside people bring a 'ministry of presence' to men who are incarcerated," she tells *San Quentin News*, adding, "I find a tremendous



File Photo

Sister Karen Conover ends her S.Q. tenure

amount of spirituality here. People are doing real spiritual work such as working on humility, hope, etc., real Christian virtues, more than what I experience in an outside parish. They experience real growth."

*"I enjoy making chemistry accessible to students, especially girls, whether practical or mathematical"*

Discussing how her San Quentin ministry has affected her, she said her former housemate and San Quentin parishioner, Sister Maureen O'Brien, BVM, who told her

on numerous occasions, "On Sundays, you come home happy."

"The choir has flourished under her leadership," remarked Father George Williams, San Quentin's Catholic chaplain. "I'm saddened; she's a friend," he added regarding her departure.

On Aug. 2 she will be celebrating her "Golden Jubilee" in San Francisco, commemorating 50 years since her consecration into religious service, with a second celebration to take place on Aug. 8 in Dubuque.

Despite looking forward to her new calling, Sister Karen admits, "Leaving is the hardest part."

Choir member and guitarist Alan Brown lamented wistfully, "We'll always carry her in our hearts here at San Quentin; there will be a missing spot for her for a long time."

*San Quentin News strives to report on forward thinking approaches in criminal justice policies that support positive changes in prisoner behavior, particularly through rehabilitative efforts.*



# Senators Introduce Bill To Boost Second Chances

By Salvador Solorio  
Journalism Guild Writer

Federal legislation has been introduced aimed to help people with criminal records get a second chance at a successful life.

The bill would accomplish three main goals: a method to clean up a federal criminal record, improve accuracy of FBI background checks and change harsh lifetime bans on public assistance for people with felony drug convictions.

The measure, titled the REDEEM Act, was introduced March 10 by Senators Rand Paul, R-Kentucky, and Cory Booker, D-New Jersey.

The REDEEM act would clean up criminal records by allowing people to put their criminal records behind them by expungement or sealing of the records. Twenty-three states broadened expungement and sealing laws between 2009 and

2014.

REDEEM would seal federal nonviolent records such as drug convictions and arrests that did not lead to a conviction. Some 600,000 job seekers received an inaccurate FBI check in 2012, *Vallas* reported. REDEEM would require the FBI to review each record for accuracy before it is provided to a requesting party.

***“Every year, more than 600,000 American citizens are released into society after serving their time”***

The bill would also reform the outdated lifetime ban on public assistance for people with drug convictions. This would change

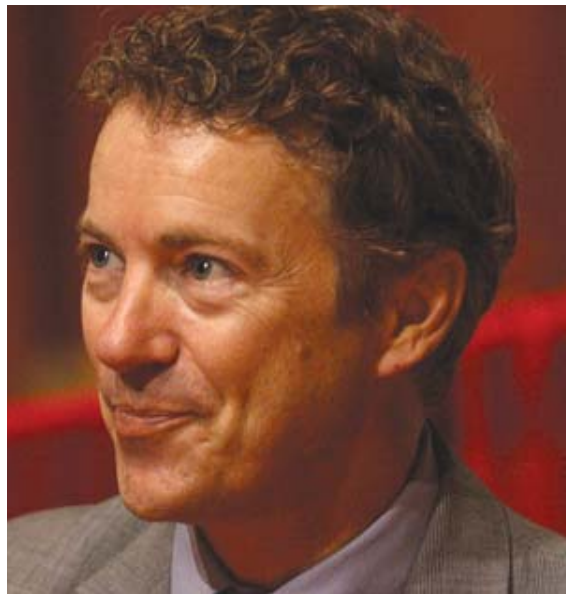
the ban by the 1996 welfare law of Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) and Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP).

It is another step in criminal justice reforms that has garnered bipartisan support in the nation’s capital, wrote Rebecca Vallas in a March 11 article in *The Nation*.

Organizations such as the ACLU and the Center for American Progress have teamed up with conservative groups such as Americans for Tax Reform, Freedom Works and the Koch brothers, *Vallas* reported.

The bipartisan focus in Washington has centered on sentencing reform and reformation of the overly harsh mandatory minimums. The efforts include the Smarter Sentencing Act.

Every year, more than 600,000 American citizens are released into society after serving their time, the article said. Millions more end up with



File Photo

Senator Rand Paul, R-Kentucky

criminal records without doing time through arrests that do not lead to convictions or through probation-only sentences.

Between 70 million and 100 million citizens have some type of criminal record, *Vallas*

wrote. The rise of technology, internet, state and federal policies can stand in the way of employment, housing, education, building good credit and even attaining a meager public assistance stipend, the story said.

## ‘New, Bigger Thinkers’ Said to Be Brown’s Court Picks

### Chief Justice Speaks of Three Selections That Were Inexperienced on the Bench

The changing face of the California Supreme Court was discussed by its chief justice in an interview with KQED.

Chief Justice Tani Cantil-Sakauye commented on Gov. Jerry Brown’s appointment of three inexperienced jus-

tices to the state’s top court. She said she thought the governor was looking for “new thinkers, bigger thinkers” on the bench. “It’s a diversity of sorts he’s looking for.”

The court spends about 25 percent of its time on death penalty appeals, the chief jus-

tice told KQED’s senior correspondent, Scott Shafer.

“It is difficult to say it (capital punishment) is working. And there’s no talk in the state Legislature of fixing it,” she said.

Fixing it would mean allocating more public money to expedite appeals and reduce the average wait time of 20 years between convictions and executions, KQED concluded.

There has not been an execution since the 2006 execution of Clarence Ray Allen. There are approximately 750 condemned on California’s Death Row.

According to KQED, the last thing state Democrats want is faster executions.

Since becoming chief justice, Cantil-Sakauye has seen the high court shift leftward. When Republican Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger chose her to replace retiring Chief Justice Ronald George in 2010, the court had

one member appointed by a Democratic governor, Carlos Moreno.

During Cantil-Sakauye’s first week on the job, Moreno an-

law professor Goodwin Liu, whose nomination to the federal bench was blocked by Republicans.

According to the report, “when George retired in the middle of the 2010 gubernatorial election, he said he was stepping down so his replacement would be named by Schwarzenegger rather than Brown, who was widely favored to win.”

Since then, Brown has named two more associate justices, Stanford law professor Mariano-Floretino Cuellar, and federal government attorney Leandra Kruger.

None of Brown’s nominees had any previous experience as judges, and all three are Yale Law School graduates.

Cantil-Sakauye stated that Liu was “a wonderful colleague and brilliant.” As for the other two latest additions to the court she added, “...they appear so far to be very deferential to the trial courts and understanding of their role.”

—By Salvador Solorio



File Photo

Chief Justice Tani Cantil-Sakauye

nounced he was leaving the high court, possibly because he was not appointed chief justice, KQED said. Gov. Brown replaced Moreno with University of California at Berkeley

two latest additions to the court she added, “...they appear so far to be very deferential to the trial courts and understanding of their role.”

—By Salvador Solorio

## Overheated Prisons Prompting Lawsuits

By Thomas Gardner  
Journalism Guild Writer

There is growing concern about overheated prisons endangering the health and lives of inmates and guards.

Several lawsuits detail the need for reasonable temperature control; medical experts also urge adequate steps to avoid health problems, National Public Radio reports.

NPR quotes a New York University medical professor, Dr. Susi Vassallo, about her visit to a non-air conditioned prison cell one summer:

“When you closed the ... doors, they had just little dots in them, which provided any ventilation from the outside. Even after five minutes ... it was absolutely stifling – it was inconceivable to live there 23 hours a day, day after day.”

NPR also cited the case of Jerome Murdough, who was found dead in February in a Rikers Island jail cell where the temperature was at least 100 degrees.

One lawsuit was filed last year in Louisiana. A judge ruled that temperatures cannot exceed 88 degrees inside of the cells, but no action was taken while the state appeals, NPR reported.

Vassallo also said that for most people, those conditions

are uncomfortable, but that those with some health conditions can be much more sensitive. That includes high blood pressure and diabetes, or those taking certain medications.

Some corrections officers in Texas have even joined a lawsuit against the state’s department of corrections seeking protection from high temperatures.

Former Texas prison guard Lance Lowry now works with the guards’ union. Lowry told NPR that corrections officers have many of the same heat-sensitive health conditions as prisoners.

“Officers frequently suffer from heat cramps and a lot of heat illnesses,” Lowry said.

Lowry also expressed concern that prisoners and the prison environment as a whole are more difficult to manage when the heat is elevated. There are more altercations and more emergencies in general.

It’s important to accommodate heat-sensitive prisoners, but prison is “not a five-star hotel,” former Texas Warden Keith Price told NPR. He is now a professor of criminology and sociology at West Texas A&M University.

Price added that “there’s a certain amount of things that you give up when you become incarcerated.”

## Forced GPS Placement Ruled a ‘Search’

By Marcus Henderson  
Journalism Guild Writer

The U.S. Supreme Court has ruled that law enforcement placing a GPS tracking device on a person amounts to a search, and is therefore protected by the Fourth Amendment.

The unanimous decision March 30 returned a case to the North Carolina Supreme Court that had ruled that placing a GPS device on a person was not a search.

“It doesn’t matter what the context is, and it doesn’t matter whether it’s a car or a person. Putting that tracking device on a car or a person is a search,” said Jennifer Lynch, a senior attorney at the Electronic Frontier Foundation.

The Supreme Court ruled in the case of *Torrey Dale Grady v. North Carolina*.

Some of the justices argued the law turns on whether the government has trespassed on someone’s property. While

other members argue that people have a reasonable expectation to the privacy of their location data.

The court decision helps make sense of how the expanding technological powers of the U.S. government interact with the law, according to a story in *The Atlantic*.

In the Grady case, Grady was a twice-convicted sex offender who challenged his order to wear a GPS monitor at all times.



# Ward Allen Focuses on Jobs for Ex-Inmates

## Recidivism Rates for Ex-Offenders Who Graduate Have Been About 7 Percent

By Tommy Bryant  
Journalism Guild Writer

For 17 years, Ward Allen has been helping transform the lives of former male and female prisoners, helping them get job skills and jobs.

"The slight, 76-year-old... happily surrounds himself with brawny ex-offenders, erstwhile thieves accustomed to not being trusted, convicted murderers who served their time but can't

find a job to support themselves or their families," wrote Cathie Anderson in a *Sacramento Bee* story.

Last year Allen and three business partners formed the Highlands Community Charter School. They hope it will be an enduring institution educating ex-offenders and other adults without high school diplomas, Anderson reported.

The school also teaches truck driving.

It is the truck-driving program that draws many parolees trying to get a fresh start and they can earn income in a short period of time, said Marvin Speed, a parole administrator with the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation.

Allen noted, recidivism rates for ex-offenders who graduate have been about 7 percent.

Speed added Allen has a lengthy list of successful graduates that he calls upon to speak

at orientations for parolees just getting out of prison.

"If we can address the parolees'... needs, and they become a productive, tax-paying citizen, they gain self-esteem and their family situation improves because their kids or significant other look up to them," Speed said. "They're less likely to revert to their criminal ways."

The cost of educating a parolee at Highlands Charter School is small, compared with the cost of prosecuting and incarcerating a repeat offender."

These parolees give back as volunteer interns at the Senior Gleaners Facility in North Sacramento, where they do their truck and forklift training certifications.

Rosie Cerna of Senior Gleaners said Highland students "helped us to reorganize our facility." Also, vehicle maintenance bills have been cut by 50 percent.

# S.Q. News Welcomes Congresswoman Jackie Speier to Rehabilitation Forum

Continued from Page 1

space to think about anything but survival. Violence is the norm."

Quezada committed second-degree murder at age 16 and is in his 18<sup>th</sup> year of incarceration.

Jason Jones, 31, said when he began his incarceration, he was sent to a level four prison and seeing so much violence desensitized him.

"I was in a race riot where I got stabbed over a state lunch," he said. "I thought I was going to die. A complete stranger came and saved me."

Most of the time when a riot erupts, hardly anyone knows what it's about, Jones said.

Speier asked how many of the inmates had been stabbed in prison. Four raised their hands and about a dozen said they were in riots.

Azraal Ford, 43, has been in prison for 17 years. He said that he's been in and out of jail, since he was 14 years old.

"Incarceration has been a nightmare and a blessing because it has allowed me to grow," he said.

"I've been a perpetrator of violence. It happens everywhere. It happens here too. Where that comes from is this place of fear. We're in a world where there are a lot of unknowns. The easiest way to build a sanctuary is to build a fort. The violence within your own circle is more

harsh. We do that because of a lot of shame. So, I want to build these rules to take away the shame. It's a twisted world we live in. The only way it's going to stop is to look at it like a sickness."

"When I first came to prison, it felt like home," said Leroy Lucas, 39, who lived in the 14<sup>th</sup> U.S. Congressional District, which Speier represents. "So, in the beginning, I accepted the hyper-masculinity behavior."

Lucas is in prison for a murder he committed at age 17. He has been incarcerated for 22 years.

Lucas said arriving at San Quentin and participating in various programs helped him turn his life around.

"I'm making strides to be a better person," Lucas said. "Today I want to be somebody. I believe I can be a good citizen."

The inmates described their experiences of racism, violence, drugs and loneliness that prison brings to their lives.

Convicted for his part in a drive-by shooting, Ventrice Laster, 49, is serving four life sentences.

"When I first came to prison, we were on lock-down for a year," he said. "Then, someone was stabbed right in front of me. It gave me nightmares. I knew then, I had to change my perspective of 'It's all about me.'"

Speier was accompanied by two staff members, press secretary Katrina Rill and television writer Mike Larson.

"Learning empathy is powerful," Larson said. "Empathy is a word that most people don't learn, but to learn it while in prison is profound."

"There is actually humanity in prison," added Rill.

"Transformation is about accountability," said Borey Ai, 34. "This has been my home for a long time. I didn't make the changes until I learned about myself."

Ai is serving a life sentence for his part in a robbery/murder when he was 14 years old.

The Cambodian refugee said that coming to the U.S. was a culture shock for his family.

"The one thing programs allow me to do is pay it forward with youth mentorship," he said. "I can see some of my own life in their lives."

Ai said that the Victims Offender Education Group (VOEG) teaches inmates to understand how their actions affect victims and their community.

"It shows the ripple effect of our action," Ai said.

Tommy Winfrey, 37, said that it took him about 10 years into his incarceration to understand that he needed to change. The setting provided by Prison University Project breaks a lot of racial barriers, he said.



Photo by Brian Asey

Congresswoman Speier leaving the SQ News room

"It helps the men work on critical thinking," Winfrey said. "You can't help but to apply these skills to your own life. The college environment helps the socialization process."

Dwight Krizman, 60, told the congresswoman that vocational training, machine shop, plumbing and computers are skills men are learning at San Quentin that could be taken to the streets.

Krizman is serving a life sentence for second-degree murder. He also talked about the Restorative Justice program.

"We run two classes a week with 160 to 170 guys," Krizman said. "Restorative Justice teaches our connection to the community and as an offender to victims. It provides a space for each of us to find our own truth. In that way we become each other's teacher."

"This is a very powerful experience," Speier said. "Thank you for your honesty."

"I think that what you've done here is remarkable," Speier said. "The ability to go from hyper-masculine to hyper-empathetic, that's a skill set needed in the community. I am hopeful about the transition that society is making about the prison population. The movement is getting away from Three Strikes and the death penalty because it is very costly. There has to be a better way to atone for offenses."

Forum Participants:

**San Quentin News Advisors:**

William Drummond, Joan Lisetor, Steve McNamara and John Eagan.

**Prisoners:**

Wayne Boatwright, 53, is serving a sentence of 7 years 8 months for gross vehicular manslaughter.

Nicholas Garcia, 62, is serving a sentence of 7 years to life for a burglary/murder he committed 38 years ago.

Thomas J. Gardner, 46, is serving a sentence of 25 years to life under California's Three Strikes Law.

Duane Holt, 55, is serving a life sentence for a 1987 murder.

Jason Jones, 31, has been incarcerated since 2006 for assault and criminal threats. Jones is scheduled to be released in 2017.

Chung C. Kao, 54, born and raised in Taiwan, is serving a life sentence for second degree murder.

John Lam, 29, is serving a life sentence for murder.

Joey Mason, 54, is serving a sentence of 25 years to life under California's Three Strikes Law.

Anouthinh Pangthong, 35, is serving a sentence of 25 years to life for killing a man at age 15.

Rahsaan Thomas, 44, is serving a sentence of 55 years to life for second degree murder.

Jaime Sánchez, 32, from Mexico City, is serving a life sentence for 2nd degree murder.

Chris Schuhmacher, 42, incarcerated 15 years; is serving a life sentence for murder.

Frankie Smith, 59, is serving a sentence of 16 years to life for 2nd degree murder.

Shadeed Wallace-Stepter, 33, began his sentence at age 19 for assault with a firearm and has been incarcerated 15 years.

Aly Tamboura, 48 is serving a sentence of 14 years 8 months, for criminal threats.



Photo by Lt. S. Robinson

Congresswoman Speier enjoys a laugh as she listen to prisoners describe how education and rehabilitation transformed their lives



# Plan to Remove Prison Healthcare System From Receivership Outlined by Judge Henderson

By Chung Kao  
Staff Writer

A federal judge outlined a plan for California to regain control over its prison health care system after nearly a decade of federal oversight.

U.S. District Judge Thelton Henderson handed down the seven-page order after a court-appointed overseer reported that conditions have improved substantially since Henderson appointed a receiver to run California's prison health care in

2006.

Henderson's order is "a well thought-out, elegant transition plan," said Donald Specter, director of the Prison Law Office and one of the attorneys who sued over poor prison health care.

Each of the state's 34 prisons must pass an inspection before they can be returned to state control, Henderson said.

The inspections, performed by the inspector general of the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation, are under way and are expected to take more than a year, *The Associated Press* reported.

California "has spent \$2 billion for new prison medical facilities, doubled its prison health care budget to nearly \$1.7 billion and reduced its prison population by more than 40,000 inmates in the last decade," the *AP* noted. This was to address the deficiencies in its prison health care system that Henderson found violated inmates' constitutional rights against cruel and unusual punishment.

Some prisons lag far behind others and more work still needs to be done system-wide, reported the court-appointed receiver, J. Clark Kelso.

Henderson also noted in his order that "critical areas of improvement remain."

The judge said prisons that



Photo by Lt. S. Robinson

U.S. District Judge Thelton Henderson in front of San Quentin's California Health Care Facility

pass the inspections could be returned to state control, but the receiver could retake control if conditions at a prison decline. Eventually, the receiver is expected to take on "more of a monitoring function," he said.

To regain control, the state

must meet constitutional standards for a year, Henderson said.

"I agree with Kelso that there are still significant issues, both systemic and individual institutions, which have to be corrected before the receivership should end," Specter said.



Photo by Lt. S. Robinson

Prisoner Upu Ama pushes Judge Henderson as they exchange their ideas of giving back to society

## Rose Madden's Healing Journey Toward Restorative Justice

*'As a result of this offense, my life was turned upside down'*

By Rahsaan Thomas  
Sports Editor

"My heart was broken," guest speaker Rose Madden said as she told San Quentin inmates the story of the senseless murder of her daughter, Jennifer LeAnne Balber.

Madden also said she learned that inmates are capable of change at the Supporting the Healing Journey Restorative Justice symposium.

"This is part of my healing process. I need to share my story, to let them know how I felt as a victim – the struggles, the depression. Maybe they can pass it on because they not only hurt me, they hurt their families," said Madden.

Balber was murdered on Nov. 10, 1994, in a drive-by shooting while on duty for the SOCAL Gas Co.

"As a result of this offense, my life was turned upside down. The emotional strain...I had no appetite; I suffered from anxiety attacks and depression. I actually pushed my family away," Madden told the audience. "My greatest challenge was having to accept that my daughter was forever gone, and that she would never be 21 years old, never get married or have kids."

The audience also heard from inmate speakers.

Inmate facilitator Danny Plunkett said, "We are a community that celebrates peace. I've heard it said that there

could never be peace. We refuse to believe that, because we believe in community."

"Restorative Justice is my life," said Billy Joe Fuller, who has been incarcerated 38 years.

He recounted being born to a 13-year-old mother and a life of abuse. To cope, he stopped feeling emotions and vowed to make them pay when he got older.

"A lot of days, I didn't want to live but I had to in order to protect my 2-year-old sister. I feed her by stealing," said Fuller.

As a juvenile, he committed murder.

"Before Restorative Justice, I knew what I did was wrong, but after Restorative Justice, I started feeling what I did was wrong. I started feeling sorry for what I had done. I went from someone who didn't care, to looking forward to the next day," said Fuller.

Restorative Justice is a system of dialogue that promotes justice for victims and offenders through repair, identifying needs of both sides and promoting responsibility and healing.

Hearing the inmates' side of the story gave a different perspective to Madden, who is the director of Families and Friends of Murder Victims.

"It makes me understand the perp a little bit better. People here want to change their lives for the better," said Madden.

"There is hope. The mindset that everybody is like the man who killed my daughter is gone."

Her daughter's killer never apologized and committed his third strike while in prison.

*"A lot of days, I didn't want to live but I had to in order to protect my two-year-old sister"*

Madden stated, "If the person who did the crime would stop and sincerely apologize to the family and acknowledge and take responsibility for what they did, this would probably help the surviving member continue living a peaceful life."

She advocated for Marcy's Law, so that victims would have rights in court.

Nina Catalano, an Alameda County public defender, noticed that, "RJ is powerful. I think the way our current criminal justice system misses much of the context. It focuses only on the crime, not the community and future."

Participants gave feedback after the speakers.

Community RJ guest Art Rogers said, "As a Vietnam veteran, I have killed many people. I don't have a prison sentence but I took several lives and there's no jail to go to, only the jail in my head. I think about you men who committed crimes and went to prison and changed your life and are striving to heal and connect with the harm you have done, not for your physical freedom, but to give freedom to your victims and community so your community can

know that you are connected with yourself and society."

Debbie Mayer said, "I'm in a Restorative Justice class at Cal Berkeley law school that's an academic environment – there's no emotion behind it. Feeling the connection between people here is great."

"I have a lot of respect for the fact that you guys have found a way to heal in a prison that isn't designed as a space for it," said Emily Harrison of the Ella Baker Center for Human Rights.

The June 6 event ended on a lighter note.

"I've cried three times here today. How about some humor," inmate Curtis Dean Askins stated before making the audience laugh by telling about being left back in kindergarten.

"I had to do kindergarten twice," he joked.

Miguel Quezada contributed to this story

## Indiana Wants to Build More Prison Cells

By Eusebio Gonzalez  
Journalism Guild Writer

Indiana officials say they need to build more prison cells because they will run out of beds for male inmates within two years.

Prison officials say they need \$50 million for new cells because of recent changes in calculating good time for in-

mates, reported *The Journal Gazette* in Fort Wayne.

The growth is expected despite a 2014 overhaul of the criminal justice system that calls for many nonviolent prisoners to be locked up locally.

The overhaul came in the wake of exploding prison populations which grew from 6,281 in 1980 to 29,377 in

2013.

Rep. Dan Leonard, R-Huntington, said the state expects many counties will be asking for money to help accommodate the influx to local jails.

Some 2.2 million men and women are imprisoned in the United States, making it the highest incarceration rate for any industrialized nation in the world.



# Board Hearings and the Truth Behind Closed Doors

By Arnulfo T. Garcia  
Editor-in-Chief

## EDITORIAL

As a journalist, when I do a story profile on an inmate at San Quentin, I first look for individuals who demonstrate a willingness to change. Has he come to terms with and does he understand why he committed his crime?

From sitting in circles with men, I have found that men who struggle with telling the entire truth about their offenses are worried about their images and what others might think. However, as time goes on, people who regularly attend sessions in the circle hear stories very similar to their own. This allows everyone to open up and find his own truth.

Some men sit in prison for 30 or 40 years and are never able to demonstrate to the parole board that they have changed their ways.

Sometimes they have difficulty articulating their insight into the root causes of why they committed their crime. Or

sometimes they cannot accept full responsibility for committing their crime.

Stanley L. Baer, 56, from San Diego County is one of those who struggled, but eventually came to terms with his crime.

He appeared before the parole board shortly after the Marsy's Law was enacted in 2009. This law allowed parole boards to extend the time between parole hearings for lifers by as much as 15 years.

Baer is the second person I know who received a seven-year denial from a parole board. As I read his transcripts, I couldn't understand why he received a seven-year denial.

Baer was arrested in October of 1995 in Flagstaff, Az., extradited to California and charged with second-degree murder.

"I went to trial because I wanted to tell the truth about my crime," Baer said. "I also needed Lorie's family to hear the truth

about what happened to their loved one."

After sentencing, in May of 1996, Baer arrived at the reception center at Richard J. Donovan Correctional Facility. He was later transferred to Pelican Bay.

While at Pelican Bay, he was assigned to building maintenance. He was eventually transferred to a yard where he earned a certificate of completion in mill and cabinet making.

Baer came to San Quentin State Prison in 2002. He said on arriving here he felt like he had been set free. He has completed many programs while here.

During the many times we've attended groups together, I came to consider Baer a man who has grown and matured. I've always been impressed with how he came to terms with his actions and accepting full responsibility for the murder of his wife Lorie.

During a Victims Offenders

Education Group (VOEG) session, he was able to talk about a secret he carried for 47 years.

Baer said when he was 5 years old, his mother put him and his two brothers in bed and set it on fire. His grandmother and father rescued them and had his mother arrested.

She was placed in a mental hospital for five months. When she was released, they were told never to discuss or repeat what happened.

In VOEG, he also revealed that his father didn't graduate from high school and worked at cutting and baling hay for a penny a bale.

He said that his father did all of this hard work so he could marry his mother. But later, his father became physically abusive to his mother, even in front of Baer's brothers and sisters.

Baer was devastated when his parents subsequently divorced while he was in the Marine Corps. He joined in 1976 and received an honorable discharge in 1982.

Baer's mother died in 2004 at age 64. In 1986, his brother Ted had committed suicide. Another brother, George, committed suicide in 1999.

Baer has no juvenile record. His criminal record consists of being arrested in 1988 for assault with a deadly weapon, but the charges were dropped. In 1993 he was arrested again for assault with a deadly weapon and with corporal injury to his spouse. He butted her on the head.

After two failed marriages and having two children, he married his third wife, Lorie. They were married for almost four years before he took her life by strangulation. Baer says he was using a sleeper hold (or choke hold) in an attempt to quiet her down. He admitted their relationship was rocky and abusive.

"It was a bad situation. I should have walked away from it when I had the opportunity," he said. "Had I known all the coping skills I learned over the years in these programs, this would have never happened and Lorie would be with us today."

His relationship with his kids is excellent, he says. When they lived close by, he saw them every three months. He has four grandchildren.

The parole board told Baer; that their "sole purpose is to

determine his suitability for parole."

Baer said the board told him that they are not there to retry his case. But just like Baer, other inmates tell me:

"I felt like I was on trial again."

Commissioner Kane told Baer why he thought he was not suitable for parole. "The offense was carried out in a manner which demonstrates an exceptionally callous disregard for human suffering. The motive of the crime was inexplicable. We don't know why you killed her. You are a trained Marine, but you might not fully have the insight and remorse of why you did it and be truthful about why you did it"

Baer accepts full responsibility for his crime and does not want to minimize the truth. He knows that if he is found suitable, he must continue to involve himself in the sort of self-help, transformative programs that he participated in while in prison. The process of change takes ongoing dedication.

But the essential question is: what does an inmate have to do to be found suitable for parole if he is always being retried by the parole board for the case that got him into prison?

Like Baer, many incarcerated individuals undergo the hard work that is required of them by various programs to show they have changed and are not the same person they were when they committed their crimes. However, that hard work is not given the full credit that it deserves by the board.

The legal question that the board asks and answers: *Is this person a threat to public safety?* And, if their answer is yes: *Is there some evidence to show his or her dangerousness?*

Receiving a life sentence in California is an ongoing and agonizing punishment.

Before facing the parole board, the person understands that a parole date is not automatic. Significant work must be done to affect a change in your life condition.

You have to reconcile your past and present attitude with your proposed future course of conduct and behavior. You must face the truth of your committed offense.

The one big reality you must understand is "insight."

Baer will appear again before the parole board in January 2016.

## Exonerated After 39 Years in Prison

By Salvador Solorio  
Journalism Guild Writer

DNA evidence exonerated Michael Hanline after he served 34 years for a crime he did not commit. Hanline, 69, was the longest-serving wrongfully convicted prisoner in California history.

California Innocence Project worked for 15 years to free him after persuading prosecutors to re-examine the

evidence. DNA evidence at the crime scene did not match Hanline or his alleged accomplice, said Justin Brooks, director of the California Innocence Project.

The conviction was based on "paper-thin evidence... He is 100 percent innocent," Brooks added.

CBS News reported, "A Ventura County Superior Court judge dismissed the charges at the request of pros-

ecutors, telling the courtroom it was done because the allegations cannot be proved beyond a reasonable doubt."

In 1980, Hanline was convicted of first-degree murder and sentenced to life in prison without the possibility of parole after being erroneously convicted for the murder of J.T. McGarry.

Hanline's then-girlfriend, Mary Bischoff, was granted immunity and was a key witness at his trial.

As for his plans, Hanline answered: "All I want to do is go fishing and ride my bike and spend time with Sandy (his wife) and do a little gardening."

Other former prisoners released due to wrongful convictions include:

- Susan Mellen, after serving 17 years for the murder of a homeless man. A Los Angeles judge said she was convicted on the word of a liar.
- In 2013 Kash Register was freed after spending 34 years in prison. The judge said prosecutors used false testimony from an alleged eyewitness.
- In 2007, Timothy Atkins was freed after spending 20 years in prison for a 1987 robbery and murder in Los Angeles. A key witness who claimed she heard him confess recanted her testimony, according to the CBS report.

## Federal Government Moves to Better Its Criminal Record System

By Jerry Smith  
Journalism Guild Writer

The federal government is moving to improve its criminal records system.

The Department of Justice asked for bidders to improve the accuracy, utility and interstate accessibility of criminal history records, a request for proposals said.

The upgrade was intended to enhance the crime fighting and criminal justice capabilities of state and tribal governments, the document said.

The program includes protective orders involving do-

mestic violence and stalking, plus automated identification systems in background checks.

"The National Criminal History Improvement Program (NCHIP) continues the Justice Department's efforts, initiated by the FBI in 1924, to build an accurate and useful national system of criminal records," said William J. Sabol, acting director of the Bureau of Justice Statistics.

The deadline to apply for funding was May 12, 2014. Eligible applicants were limited to the agency that was designated by the governor in each state.

## S.Q. Warrior Maurice Hanks' Parting Words

By Rahsaan Thomas  
Sports Editor

San Quentin Warrior Maurice Hanks paroled in April. Here's what he had to say on his way out.

His favorite game was against the Golden State Warriors when Steve Kerr came in.

"It was on my birthday, and it was the most fun," said Hanks. "I came in at crunch time and hit two big threes that helped us win."

"Playing against those people was incredible, amazing. They weren't real to me; then I saw them in person, and they looked the same way they did on TV," said Hanks.

"Last season was the best because we beat the Golden State Warriors," said Hanks.

"Playing basketball gives me something positive to do. It helped me focus. Once on my agenda, it had to be done. It's a stress reliever."

Hanks has plans to keep the

positive attitude going.

"I'm going to school, and I'm going to network with the Golden State Warriors. "Mo" told me to keep working on my game. He said I could go somewhere," Hanks said, referring to Marreese "Mo" Speights, a Golden State Warriors power forward.

"I enjoyed my time at San Quentin. I appreciate all the love, cheers and haters. I salute everybody. Keep y'all heads up," said Hanks. "God has a blessing in store for everybody."

## Paroled From San Quentin After 28 Years Behind Bars

By Anouthinh Pangthong  
Journalism Guild Writer

After spending 28 years in prison for a crime he insists he did not commit, Roeling Adams was released on parole from San Quentin State Prison.

The parole board relied heavily on a declaration from the California Innocence Project supporting Adams' innocence claim. Gov. Jerry Brown did not overturn the parole, reported an Oct. 12 article in *Rocklin Today*.

Adams was convicted in 1986

for a shooting, based on testimony from a witness, who later recanted his claim, the story reported.

The California Innocence Project said it receives up to 2,000 claims a year. It has earned the exoneration of 11 wrongfully convicted clients. It is a program of the California Western School of Law.

"One of the leading causes of wrongful conviction is misidentification," said Justin Brooks, director of the California Innocence Project.



# Juvenile Lifers Unprepared for Board Hearings

By John Lam  
Journalism Guild Writer

While some youthful offenders are finding new hope in getting out of prison, more are not found suitable for release or are unprepared for their board hearing.

Last year, legislation passed to allow inmates whose crimes were committed as minors to appear before the parole board after serving at least 15 years of their sentence.

From Jan. 1, 2014 through May 31, the board held 664 youth offender hearings, resulting in 189 grants, 410 denials, 63 stipulations to unsuitability, and two split votes that required referral to the full Board for further consideration. An additional 318 were scheduled during this time, but were waived, postponed, continued or canceled, according to court papers filed by the Attorney General of California.

Of the hearings that were held, juvenile offenders had a success rate of nearly 46 percent of being found suitable for parole. For all offenders, during this time period, only around 25 percent resulted in suitability, *California Lifer Newsletter* reported.

This spark of hope came from the efforts of those who believed in giving youths a second chance. California lawmakers began to “recognize that youthfulness both lessens a juvenile’s moral culpability...as a youth matures into an adult and neurological development occurs, these individuals can become contributing members of society,” SB260 stated.

The new law requires the Board of Parole Hearings to “give great weight to the hallmarks of youth” during parole

suitability hearings.

No two stories of young people who made terrible decisions are the same and three San Quentin inmates illustrate the variety of cases affected by SB260.

One is Jason Lile, 39, who committed his crime when he turned 17. He was sentenced to 65 years and four months for attempted murder-robbery.

“I was 19 when I came to prison...in Tracy. People were getting stabbed, robbed, guys getting shot trying to escape,” Lile recalled. “The person I became in prison was harder, more stubborn, kind of. I found myself looking at things indifferently; things didn’t matter.

“I started to cut ties with my friends and support network, because I didn’t want to lie to them about going home soon. I was stuck in a box with nowhere to go,” said Lile.

“When SB260 passed, I was not prepared at all. I never thought I would go before a board; I wasn’t a lifer.”

Lile was found unsuitable for parole during his first board hearing under SB260 and was given a seven-year denial on Feb. 3.

“I felt it was justified. I noticed that I wasn’t insightful about my crime, myself, and I never thought about taking responsibility for my crime until SB260 came around,” Lile said.

“My focus now is to stay out of trouble, attend self-help programs and continue to work on myself, and to spread the word to my friends who aren’t lifers but are affected by the bill to get their act right, because there are

too many of us who are not prepared at all.”

Lile hopes he would be granted an opportunity to go before the board next year.

**“In 2010, I was given a five-year denial during my third hearing for a lack of insight”**

Gregory Coates, 58, committed his crime in 1975 when he was 17 years old, and was convicted of first- and second-degree murder. He was sentenced to seven years to life.

After being incarcerated 41 years, Coates said in an interview, “I thought I was only going to serve 12-13 years and be released.” His minimum eligibility release date was in 1985.

“I hadn’t done many programs before I went to my first board hearing in 1981. The board got on me about my drinking and 115s (disciplinary infractions),” Coates said. “After that first board hearing, I didn’t think there was any hope for me even though others were going home; most importantly, I didn’t think I deserved to go home.

“It was this belief, along with my lack of taking responsibility for my crime, that got me denied so many times. I had never spoken to the parole commissioners about my crime; my lawyers always did the talking for me.”

In 2011, Coates was given a 10-year denial on his 11<sup>th</sup> hear-

ing. When SB260 became law, Coates said, “It gave me a lot of hope. I was seeing many young men and friends go home, I realized that it was time for me to wake up and talk about things that I was so ashamed of.”

Coates was denied an appeal on his 10-year denial under Marsy’s Law and is expected to go before his next parole hearing in the year 2020 when he is 65 years old.

Benjamin Obsuna, 39, was 17 when he was convicted of second-degree murder and was sentenced to 16 years to life.

Obsuna has been incarcerated for the past 23 years, and has gone to the board four times.

“I didn’t know what I was getting into; no one was being found suitable. I didn’t know how to prepare – I just kept a normal routine. I went to work, I went to the yard, and one day they called me into the board room. When I got denied, I went to play basketball,” Obsuna said.

“In 2010, I was given a five-year denial during my third hearing for a lack of insight,

and my mom came to see me and asked me what ‘lack of insight’ meant. I couldn’t tell her because I didn’t know myself, which woke me up and it was right then that I made the decision to start over.”

Obsuna credits his change and enlightenment to the people and groups that he found in San Quentin, including Criminal and Gang Members Anonymous.

“I was in a gang since I was 13 years old,” Obsuna said. “I used to have a gang burn on my wrist; now it’s covered with a peace sign.”

Obsuna said he wanted to tell his story so that others will know that “change is good, and never give up hope; once you get out of the old belief system, it’s going to be all good.”

Obsuna was found suitable on March 25, 2015.

“These three stories exemplify those affected by SB260 and indicate the need for even more opportunity for prisoners to learn and grow through programming, which indicate the importance of peer support as well as external, educational, and volunteer support in helping youth offenders succeed,” commented Karin Drucker, Kid CAT volunteer.

## High Teen Truancy Linked to Bullying

Bullying is a major problem in American schools, with many victims considering suicide, according to statistics from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS).

“Each day about 160,000 students miss school because of bullying or because of their fear of being bullied,” reported *NoBullying.com*. “Children and teens who are considered ‘different’ from their peers are the most frequent targets of bullies.

“Special-needs students; Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender (LGBT) students; students who are overweight and students who are perceived as ‘weak’ are the most likely targets of bullying.”

### BULLYING

Bullying is defined as intentionally aggressive, usually repeated, verbal, social or physical behavior aimed at a specific person or group of people.

Although forms of bullying like harassment and hazing are considered criminal, in general, bullying alone is not illegal.

Those bullied by peers were more likely to consider suicide and even attempt it, according to the *Journal of Adolescent Health*. The relationship is often influenced by factors like depression and delinquency.

“If the bully comes from a home where fighting and violence is the order of the day, then he or she will see it as an acceptable behavior in the society. The same case happens to be true in schools where there is a lot of bullying happening,” said an article on *NoBullying.com*.

About 61 percent of students surveyed by the Bureau of Justice linked school shootings with the perpetrator being physically abused at home, reported the Bureau of Justice.

“When a bully wants to become popular, it is understood that he will pick on the most unpopular kid, one who has for one reason or another been shunned by the peer group. The bully will reason that the peer group will applaud this anti-social behavior and he or she will then become popular at the expense of the poor victim,” *NoBullying.com* stressed.

Students often said bullying boosts the social status and popularity of the perpetrator, according to a UCLA psychology study of 1,895 students at 11 Los Angeles middle schools.

### STUDY

According to the DHHS study:

1 in 3 students say they have experience being bullied.

1 in 10 teens drop out of school as a result.

Only 20-30 percent of students who are bullied tell adults or authorities about their situation.

40 percent of boys who were identified as bullies in middle and high school had been arrested three or more times before age of 30.

There are no federal laws in the United States that address bullying directly, the study reported. Forty-nine states have passed anti-bullying legislation since 1999; only the state of Montana is without any legislation.

—By John Lam

## The ‘Hidden Victims’ Children of Incarcerated Mothers

Children with incarcerated mothers are often referred to as “hidden victims,” and are among the most at-risk population in the United States, a study reports.

“Children with incarcerated mothers are at heightened risk for attachment disturbance, leading to depression, anxiety, and other trauma-related stress,” stated a report published by the *Columbia Social Work Review*.

The report found that the number of incarcerated women who have children has increased by 87 percent since 1990, with Black and Hispanic women representing the majority of those incarcerated.

“The prevailing societal assumption that incarcerated mothers are a negative influence on their children is inconsistent with, and unreflective of, an incarcerated woman’s actual

role in the lives of her children, which may have been very positive,” said Tanya Krupat, program director of the New York Initiative for Children of Incarcerated Parents at the Osborne Association.

Federal child-welfare laws designed to assist children of incarcerated parents have reportedly posed more obstacles than help for the youth.

The Adoption and Safe Families Act of 1997 (ASFA) allows for parental rights to be terminated if a child resides in foster care for 15 of the most recent 22 months, this can be problematic “because a typical sentence for an incarcerated parent is between 80 and 100 months,” the Review stated.

“It is entirely plausible that a mother sentenced to three years as a first-time felony drug offender for selling \$10 worth of

drugs will face the real and disturbing prospect of permanently losing all rights to her children,” states a study of Women in Prison by the Correctional Association of New York.

An alternative to incarcerating primary caregivers is a pilot program called the Drew House in Brownsville, New York. There women and their children live in their own apartments, and are provided a therapeutic environment with family therapist and employment specialists. More importantly, they avoid the traumatic impact of maternal separation on children, the Review states.

“To house a mother and two children for a year, it costs \$34,000, compared with \$129,000 for both incarceration and foster care,” *The New York Times* reported.

—By John Lam

**Kid CAT (Creating Awareness Together) is a group of men that committed their crimes as teens and were sentenced as adults to life terms. The group’s mission is to inspire humanity through education, mentorship and restorative practices. Kid CAT Speaks wants to hear from the male and female juvenile lifers, educators, and policy makers concerning juvenile justice issues and rehabilitation.**



# Prison HIV/AIDS Deaths Declined From 2001 to 2010

By Lee Jaspar  
Journalism Guild Writer

Deaths of prison inmates from HIV/AIDS have declined steadily from 2001 to 2010, according to a report published by the U.S. Department of Justice. The report said that between 2001 and 2010, “the estimated number of inmates with HIV/AIDS declined by 16 percent, and the number of AIDS-related deaths in prison declined by 77 percent.” Findings in the report were based on data collected from 50 states and the Federal Bureau of Prisons through the Bureau of Justice Statistics’ (BJS) National Prisoner Statistics (NPS-1) and Deaths in Custody Reporting Program (DCRP). The report also drew a com-

parison to the U.S. population overall and concluded that the rate of AIDS-related deaths for state prison inmates dropped below the rate for the U.S. general population. Between 2001 and 2009, the AIDS-related death rate among state prisoners ages 15 to 54 declined from 22 deaths per 100,000 inmates to six per 100,000. The rate among that age group in the general population declined from nine per 100,000 to seven per 100,000, according to the report. The report identified California as one of four states holding more than 1,000 inmates with HIV/AIDS at the end of 2010. California, Florida, New York and Texas accounted for 51 percent (9,492) of all state prisoners with HIV/AIDS in 2010.

The report also identified specific demographics in the affected population and AIDS-related deaths in state prisons declined among male inmates from 89 in 2009 to 69 in 2010; from 73 to 43 among black non-Hispanics; and from 87 to 60 among all state inmates ages 35 and older. In a table showing all states and their individual numbers of HIV-positive or confirmed AIDS cases in custody by year-end 2010, California had 1,402 in 2008, 1,235 in 2009 and 1,098 in 2010. That is 0.8 percent of the custody population in 2008 and 0.7 percent in 2009 and 2010. The report also showed the gender of this affected population to be mostly male at 1,146 in 2009 and 1,023 in 2010. Female inmates who were HIV-positive or AIDS infected were 89 in

2009 and 75 in 2010. AIDS-related deaths by demographic characteristics showed the largest affected group for this period to be black males between the ages 45-54.

## METHODOLOGY

The federal government began collecting National Prisoner Statistics (NPS-1), which primarily measures prison population movement, in 1926. The series comprises reports from the Departments of Corrections in 50 states and the Federal Bureau of Prisons. NPS-1 includes year-end counts of prisoners by jurisdiction, sex, race, Hispanic/Latino origin and admissions and releases during the year. In 1991, the Bureau of Jus-

tice Statistics (BJS) began using NPS-1 to collect data on HIV and confirmed AIDS cases in prisons. BJS respondents indicated the circumstances under which inmates were tested for HIV and reported the number of inmates with HIV/AIDS in their custody, the report advised. The report concluded with the rate of HIV/AIDS and AIDS-related deaths in prison. It stated that to calculate the estimated rate of HIV/AIDS among inmates in custody of state and federal prisons, the estimated year-end count of HIV/AIDS cases was divided by the year-end custody population for each year. Per the DCRP, the number of AIDS-related deaths in state prisons was 310 in 2001 and 70 in 2010.

## Danny Glover Embraces The Men of San Quentin

*‘Because I’m dyslexic, I used to be embarrassed to read in class’*

Continued from Page 1

around him. I was deeply touched by his compassion and his outlook on humanity. I feel he has outstanding human qualities that simply amazed me,” said VOEG member Thomas “Tommy” Hobson. VOEG instructors Bonnie Willis and Kashka Banjoko brought the actor to San Quentin’s H Unit, with the special assistance of Community Partnership Manager Steve Emrick. As brother and sister, Willis and Banjoko are both longtime friends of Glover dating back many years. After being greeted with handshakes and hugs, Glover sat in a small circle with VOEG members and opened himself up to conversation, as if he had known them all for years. He discussed personal issues such as his battles with dyslexia, confronting and conquering fears, philosophical yoga, metaphorical wisdom, abolishing the death penalty, and how listening to John Coltrane and doing Pilates helped him play the role of a serial killer. “I did a movie called ‘Switchback’ in 1995. I played a serial killer. To get into the role, I started doing Pilates. While doing Pilates, I would listen to ‘Equinox’ by John Coltrane. I began to gain full confidence in the role. To become the serial killer, I had to transform myself into character. I owned the moment,” said Glover. It was stories like this in which Glover shared his unorthodox way of script reading and becoming one with characters as techniques to compensate for being dyslexic. These methods, which he calls “my hidden secrets,” enable him to connect with his fears and build confidence. “Because I’m dyslexic, I used to be embarrassed to read

in class. To this day, I need to physically feel a book when I read. I need to physically experience a scene to memorize it,” said Glover. The methods employed by Glover to deal with his shortcomings fit in perfectly with the curriculum and techniques taught in the VOEG class, a program committed to transformation and social justice. With “insight” as a guiding principle, VOEG members develop self-awareness skills to process their own shortcomings, such as effectively dealing with difficult emotions. The development and use of such practices as mindful awareness, emotional intelligence and critical self-reflection can produce a change of heart in how a person reacts or responds to a situation. The philosophy and methodology of VOEG encourages members to make better conscious choices before thinking, feeling and acting. “One way to overcome our fears is to build confidence in self,” said Glover. “Even though I’m older with a hip and knee injury, I still try yoga. I do it because it builds my confidence to move normally.” Most famously known for his starring role in movies such as “The Color Purple” and “Lethal Weapon,” Glover is less well known for his role in private life as a philanthropist, humanitarian, activist and advocate. Glover is an ambassador for UNICEF and a leading advocate in promoting the abolition of the death penalty in the United States. “I met Danny 47 years ago while we were both students at San Francisco State. We were both part of a Black Studies program – the first in the country at any university,” said Banjoko. His work on-screen and off screen is as impressive as is



Photo by Lt. S. Robinson

Community Partnership Manager Steve Emrick and Actor Danny Glover

his personality. “Danny Glover is a great inspiration for me. The things he taught me about overcoming fears is something I’ll always remember,” said VOEG member Maurice Gipson. Glover told VOEG members that he is no stranger to the penal system. “I grew up in the Army Street projects in San Francis-

co... I have brothers who’ve been to prison before. I remember my mother use to get mad when she had to miss church on Sundays to go visit my brothers in Vacaville and Tracy (both state prisons),” said Glover. VOEG members praised Glover’s humbleness, honesty and his friendly next-door-neighbor demeanor. “He was

surprisingly down-to-earth,” said VOEG member DiJon Newton. “It is a very heartwarming experience to be friends with him,” said Bonnie Willis. “He is very gracious. He is very magnanimous. He is so real. He’ll walk in your house and go straight to the refrigerator talking about, ‘what y’all got to eat in here?’”

## Website Offers Help to Families of Those Incarcerated

A new and free search engine, [www.PrisonPath.com](http://www.PrisonPath.com), provides information for the public. The site helps users in clarifying confusion and fear of the unknown when a loved one is charged and arrested, or sentenced to imprisonment in the United States. PrisonPath provides information including the ability to find a person incarcerated, visitation rules, contact numbers, and more about every American prisoner or jail. It also allows families and friends of inmates to communicate with each other on a specific page.



# Public Gets Rare Glimpse of Art in Prison

## Four-Day Conference Attracts More Than 75 Attendees



Viewers inspect model city “Garciaville” named in memory of art teacher Rene Garcia



Michael Williams talking art to an out-of-state visitor about the San Francisco program when it shifted sessions to San Quentin

By Tommy Winfrey  
Art Editor

On June 19 San Quentin was transformed into an international art gallery as part of a four-day art conference held primarily at the University of San Francisco on “Arts in Corrections – Opportunities for Justice and Rehabilitation.” More than 75 of the conference attendees came to the prison to hear performing artists read poetry and to view visual arts.

The four-day conference that began on June 16 and culminated in the art show at San Quentin was presented by the William James Association – Prison Arts Project, the California Lawyers for the Arts, and hosted at the University of San Francisco.

As visitors entered the inner prison plaza they were split into two groups. Half of the guests were shepherded into the chapel to view 25 pieces of art created by men incarcerated in San Quentin. The art hung on easels arranged down the aisles of the chapel leading to the stage.

On stage, performance artists from the restorative justice-based Artistic Ensemble gave

short presentations of pieces from a larger work titled “Waterline.”

One observer remarked, “The Ensemble stole the show,” with Nythell “Nate” Collins depicting a prisoner trapped inside a cast of performers who represented an eight by twelve cell.

Collins screamed, “eight by twelve,” and the performers closed in on him, sending the message that prison can be a closed-in life.

Poets also read work that they wrote in the poetry workshop, “The Emergency for Emerging Forms of Life.” The workshop, led by Stephen Novotny and Annie Rovzar Steven, meets every Sunday night in the art studio at San Quentin.

“I went to the University of San Francisco. When I was there as an undergraduate I had great mentors,” said Novotny, who is now paying it forward to the prisoners he teaches.

Dennis Crookes, a participant in the poetry workshop who normally paints to express his artistic talents, said, “Stephen and Annie got me writing surreal poetry.”

The rest of the 75 guests split up and took turns seeing

the legendary Alfredo Santos’ murals that were painted in the South Dining Hall during the 1950s, and visiting the art studio where they were greeted by prison artists.

The art studio exhibits ranged from graphite and pencil drawings to acrylic and oil paintings on canvas. An attention-getter was a mural being painted on huge wooden panels for the North Dining Hall. The mural depicts a fantasy cityscape imagined by artist Scott McKinstry.

The artists answered many questions about their art pieces. One of the visitors became so overwhelmed by their stories that she left in tears.

After about an hour, the groups viewing the art studio, the murals and the art show in the chapel switched tours – giving every visitor a complete look at the entire art community in San Quentin.

The art show within the walls of the prison was the culmination of the four-day art conference.

On June 16, an optional pre-conference training day was offered to attendees. Experienced practitioners taught workshops

to those who were new in the fields of dance, theater, music, literary and visual arts. The training also discussed navigating the art world inside of a prison.

Former San Quentin prisoner Troy Williams was a member of the panel that discussed the “Nuts and Bolts of Working in Prison.”

The next day featured talks from people who are involved in teaching art in prison. Some of the featured speakers included San Quentin’s Community Partnership Manager Steve Emrick and the Sheriff of San Francisco County, Ross Mirkarimi. Opening remarks for the conference were presented by William James Association’s Executive Director Laurie Brooks, and the California Lawyers for the Arts’ Executive Director Alma Robinson.

On June 18, guests were presented with research on art in corrections and evaluations done by professionals such as Larry Brewster, Ph.D., from the University of San Francisco.

Later in the day, Sonya Shah, Justice Program Director for the Prison Insight Project, led a restorative justice seminar.

That evening former San Quentin prisoners Watani Stiner and Henry Frank served on an artist panel moderated by Carol Newborg from the William James Association.

On the last day of the conference, Millicent Tidwell, Director of the Division of Rehabilitative Programs, California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation, spoke on the topic, “Where do we go from here?”

The keynote speaker for the day was California Senator Loni Hancock, chair of the Senate Public Safety Committee.

Then at 11 a.m., the 75 visitors who had been cleared to enter San Quentin got on a bus and headed for the prison.

Prisoner Richie Morris summed up the whole point that the conference was trying to make when he told the crowd in the chapel, “We’re a family. There are days when we’re dysfunctional, but the tension is necessary. I know that words are powerful. After 30 years in prison I can be more than a convict. I am a human being and I recognize these guys as brothers.”

—Juan Haines  
contributed to this story



Bruce Fowler explains his art to an admirer who made the trip to see the San Quentin exhibits.



Philip Melendez tells visitors about the benefits of the art program at San Quentin



# Mass Incarceration: From ROOTS' Perspective

Continued from Page 1

mates.

Delegates came from about 60 organizations including California state policy makers, community, labor and grant-funding organizations.

"I think we share a future together with the currently and formally incarcerated in California," said Assemblyman Robert Bonta, D-Oakland.

"So we need to take the steps for a better future together. So how are we going to move forward together? I hope to have a hand in charting that path with other like-minded folks."

San Francisco Supervisor Jane Kim said she is looking for a better solution than building more jail space. "I'm glad to come to San Quentin and hear from the men to see what I can do as a policy-maker," said Kim.

Jim Oddie, an Alameda City Council member, also attended.

ROOTS members recommended Senate Bill 261 and the Second Chance Initiative for stemming mass incarceration.

"What SB 261 does is take into consideration a person's



Photo by Sam Hearn

Eddy Zheng explains the setting of a prison yard and the dynamics of its culture

tated first-time offenders with lengthy sentences a chance to petition the court for release. (For more information about the Second Chance Initiative, go to: [www.change.org/petitions/support-2nd-chance-initiative](http://www.change.org/petitions/support-2nd-chance-initiative)).

Assemblyman Bonta noted, "Our recidivism rates are way too high. If we do the same

opened the conference with these words: "When I see you, I see me, because you are a reflection of me."

Prisoner John Wang said, "I read in the Chinese World Journal about how Eddy made positive changes to get out of prison and how he kept his word to help the community. He's my role model now."

Charlie Thao, Anouthinh Pangthong, Son Nguyen, Kamsan Soun, David Lee, Zitsue Lee and Syyen Hong.

"My culture helped shine light on a non-violent path in prison," Chung Kao said while performing Tai Chi movements. "I was lost swimming in an ocean of inner conflict. Only focus, tenacity and faith have returned me to center, time and again."

After hearing the men's stories, Supervisor Kim said, "The level of blunt honesty is extraordinary."

You commented, "Understanding the next person tears down the walls of racism. That's why it's important ROOTS be put in other institutions and schools. We're not as different as we look. It's important to understand what happened to our parents."

Assemblyman Bonta stated, "I'm seeing the ROOTS program work up close and personal. Seeing the impact on some of the men puts them on a road to transformation and change and taking new and different steps. How can we reproduce this program? We need to take advantage of California Recidivism Reduction funds. Funds need to be spent on programs that work and that spur transformation, not on those that don't."

ROOTS member Philip Melendez closed with these words: "Accountability is a driving force to make the changes in our lives. Once an offender truly realizes the harm that he caused, it is unlikely he will ever harm anyone again."

"What would have helped us to not to have committed our crimes – many of us agree: mentorship."

"We weren't born armed and dangerous. Are we criminals, monsters or great people? I say we are human beings who made mistakes. The more lifers that go home, the more the crime will go down."

"If you have more rehabilitation, then you release better people back into society. All this can be done without compromising public safety."

"SB 261 and Second Chance are waiting in the wings to help chip at the problem."

ROOTS sponsors Zheng, Ben Wang and Kasi Chakravartula helped organize the conference that continued the next day with a fundraising event and workshop.

"This was a collective effort of six API, Asian Pacific Islanders organization communities that are acknowledging there is a crisis in our community around incarceration and deportation," said Chakravartula.

The other organizing groups



Photo by Sam Hearn

S.F. Supervisor Jane Kim

were: Asian Americans Advancing Justice, Asian Pacific American Labor Alliance, Asian Prisoner Support Committee, National Education Association and Southeast Asia Resource Action Center.

Delegates came to the June 26 event from Raleigh, NC, New Orleans, Philadelphia, New York City, Los Angeles and San Francisco.

"If you want policy to change, talk to your family members, educate people. Get them to vote. Things change from the ground up. I am going to talk to people about it because of what you educated me today," said delegate Duc Ta.

Professor Roger Chung, a ROOTS sponsor, said of the workshop: "People who attended learned that we can transform the world, and this work cannot be done without including the folks inside."



Photo by Sam Hearn

Zitsue Lee talks about immigration policy reforms

age when committing a crime," said ROOTS member Juan Meza. "Zero tolerance in the judicial system puts people away forever, no matter what age."

"Our mentality changes (in prison) because we grow up. Juveniles try things adults won't do. SB 261 will give an adult a chance to make the case that he can contribute to society," said Meza.

Similarly, the Second Chance Initiative would give rehabili-

thing and the data is the same, then we are the ones as policy-makers who are making the mistake by not changing and adjusting."

Inside organizer Phoeun You said, "I'm Cambodian-born and escaped during genocide (war)," said You. "My war-traumatized parents ... were impacted by being displaced but didn't show it... Look into the immigration laws; change them."

Eddy Zheng, an organizer,

Keynote speaker Uch spoke against deporting immigrants. He spent four years in a Washington state prison, then faced life in an immigration jail and potential deportation.

"You made poor choices, but you don't deserve to be deported. You should have the choice to stay with your family," Uch said.

Also speaking were ROOTS members Wilson Chen, Eusebio Gonzalez, Nick Lopez,



Photo by Sam Hearn

Somsak Uppasay addressing the importance of community support



Photo by Sam Hearn

Assemblyman Robert Bonta, ROOTS Graduate Joe Hancock and Alameda City Council member Jim Oddie



# New SQ Group Finds Its Roots in History

By Juan Haines  
Managing Editor

The shy and unassuming inmate Sa Tran told a packed room of spectators that he couldn't believe he was standing before them and giving a speech.

"My parents taught me very well; they never once taught me to hate or dislike any person, let alone another race/ethnicity."

Nevertheless, Tran told the audience the environment in which he grew up made him prejudiced and narrow-minded.

"These tendencies correlate directly from a lack of sociality with other races/ethnicities," he said.

Tran joined (Restoring Our Original True Selves) ROOTS last year along with someone he knew of another race, Nick Lopez.

"In ROOTS, we shared our life stories, and when I heard his life story, it completely changed me as a person," Tran said. "It touched me so much because it hit home. I, too, experienced pretty much the very



Photo by Sam Hearnes

## ROOTS Graduate Satinder Singh

same thing."

Tran is serving a sentence of 23 years to life for attempted murder and has been incarcerated for two decades.

The guiding principal of ROOTS, "No History; No Self; Know History; Know Self," is "toward developing self-awareness and understanding how to be a productive member of one's community," said

Chairman Phoenix You.

In 2003, Eddy Zheng, Mike Ngo and Rico Riemedio (then lifers at San Quentin), wanted to develop Asian American Ethnic Studies at San Quentin. Their vision was to provide the fast-growing Asian community inside prison with education about Asian history.

After 10 years of struggling, the ROOTS program was established. It is a collaboration of concerned community members geared to help people identify their history and understand themselves.

"I requested to get in the class to learn more about Asian culture," said Joe Hancock, the only African-American in the class. "In general African-Americans don't have an authentic culture."

Hancock has been incarcerated for more than 18 years and has been at San Quentin for eight years. He works in the vocational machine shop, participates in Restorative Justice, Non-Violent Communications and Alliance for Change. He also regularly attends NA/AA. He is currently enrolled in Addiction Recovery Counseling. He has graduated from Coastline College with a business certificate. Hancock qualifies for pending legislation that would allow him to appear before the parole board, since he committed his offense before age 23.

Historically, California prisons have been divided by race. San Quentin is no different.

On the day of the graduation from the 10-month program, the Asian community invited all races to meet with them to break bread as a community. Everyone was given a plate of food.

"In all my years of incarceration, I never witnessed the black population doing something like that," said Hancock. "It was good to see all the races come together. More stuff like that needs to take place."

ROOTS participant Reggie Hola said, "We want people to feel at home. We want everyone to feel that ROOTS is for everyone."

Hola explained that this sentiment of opening up comes from *mana*, which is "the spirit of welcome from our ancestors," he said.



Photo by Sam Hearnes

Chung Kao demonstrates the art of Tai Chi



Photo by Sam Hearnes

Guest and prisoners listen to a lecture about transformation, cultural struggles and social change

tors," he said. "It's something that we all carry, it's in our character, and mannerism. It comes from bonding."

Pakistani Adnan Khan said that his parents immigrated to the U.S. in 1980. Khan regularly visits the Asian Area on the Lower Yard.

Explaining the area, Khan said, "There's no label; it's the spot; the neighborhood." Adding, "There's Indian, Pakistan, Laos, Cambodian, Vietnam, Japanese, Philippines, Samoan, Tongan, Fiji, Hawaiian, Hmong, Mien, China, there's so many more."

"There's a lot of support there, laughing and joking, sharing of material things, and self. I see a lot of selfless acts," Khan said.

Khan said in ROOTS he learned about intergenerational trauma.

"It's like PTSD that goes to the childhood. I grew up in a large family who has been through a lot of war. The rage that my family suffers, I can now understand what they went through."

The ROOTS curriculum include classes on Asian-Pacific Islander history and culture, healing practices, intergen-



Photo by Sam Hearnes

## ROOTS Graduate Anouthinh Pangthong

erational trauma, cultural masculinity and stigmas, immigration and reentry, sharing circles, and the nonviolence practices of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

In addition, the students of ROOTS learn about discrimination and racism, LGBTQ awareness and public speaking. Graduates of the program are encouraged to stay on as teachers and facilitators for the newcomers to ROOTS.

## ROOTS 2015 Graduates

Upumoni Ama  
Quoc Chau  
Damon Cooke  
Rafael Cuevas  
Eduardo Delapena  
Elijah Fejeran  
Eusebio Gonzalez  
Joseph Hancock  
Syren Hong  
Chnug Kao  
Zhuo Liu  
Philip Melendez  
Juan Meza  
Benjamin Obsuna  
Anouthinh Pangthong  
Satinder Singh  
Kamsan Suon  
Somsak Uppasay  
Vong Vue  
Romeo Bacos  
Jason Lile  
Jose Segura  
Armando Garcia  
Minh Tran  
Lam Le



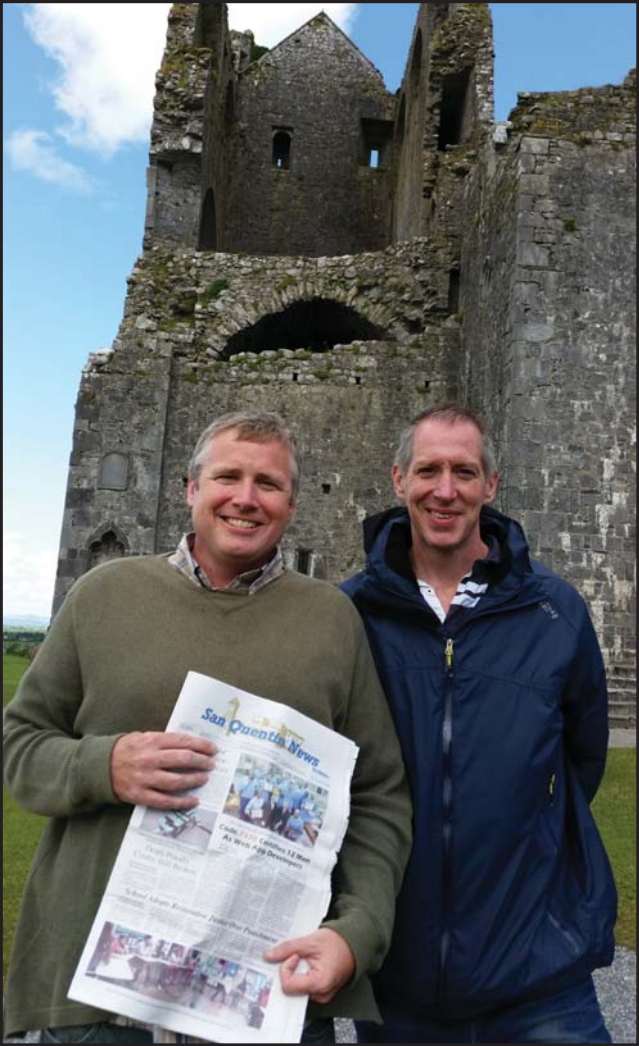
Photo by Sam Hearnes

Native Hawaiian spiritual group performs a traditional dance to bring hope



Arts & Entertainment

Messages From Around the World



Paul Donlan and Brendan Craughwell holding a *San Quentin News* paper at the Rock of Cashel, also known as St. Patrick's Rock in Tipperary, Ireland



Inspector General Bob Barton with a SQN paper at the Kigali Memorial Centre in Rwanda, where the remains of about 258,000 genocide victims have been layed to rest

Last Issue's Sudoku Solution

4	6	3	7	9	5	2	1	8
5	9	8	2	1	6	7	4	3
7	2	1	3	4	8	5	9	6
2	5	9	4	8	3	6	7	1
8	4	7	6	5	1	3	2	9
1	3	6	9	7	2	8	5	4
6	8	4	5	2	9	1	3	7
9	1	2	8	3	7	4	6	5
3	7	5	1	6	4	9	8	2

3	4	6	2	1	9	5	7	8
7	1	8	6	3	5	4	2	9
9	5	2	8	4	7	3	1	6
8	7	4	5	9	1	6	3	2
2	9	3	7	6	8	1	4	5
5	6	1	3	2	4	9	8	7
4	3	7	9	5	2	8	6	1
1	2	9	4	8	6	7	5	3
6	8	5	1	7	3	2	9	4

Sudoku Corner

					6		8	2
6				9	3			
1	4			5	2		3	
2							5	8
				5	6	7		
7	9							6
	3			1	7			6
					4	3		7
4	7			6				

		2	3			6		
1			5					
3	6	4	9		8			
8		6	2					
9								8
					9	3		1
			6		5	1	3	2
					3			7
		5			7	8		

Complete This Puzzle and Win a Prize!

Huggie The Pirate had 27 crew members under his command on his ship, the Black Diamond Donut. He had less prisoners than that in the hold. One stormy night while swabbing the deck, half of them were staving so they decided to jump overboard, leaving the ship exactly 15 percent less occupied than it was before. How many prisoners escaped?

The Answer to Last Months Trivia: 16÷2 - 3 +1=6

The winner to last Month's puzzle is Todd Williams

Congratulation to J. Wang, E. Vicks and A. Judice for also getting last month's puzzle correct.

Rules

The prize will be for completion of brain twister puzzles. All puzzle submissions should be sent via u-save-em envelope to San Quentin News/Education Department. Only one entry per person. All correct submissions will be placed in a hat. The winner will be picked by a drawing of the first answer from that hat. The prize is 2 Granola Bars. Prize will only be offered to inmates with privilege group status that allows for the prize items. Inmates transferred, sent to ad/seg, or otherwise not available to claim their prize will result in forfeiture. The answer and winner's name will be published in the next issue of the San Quentin News.

Snippets

Russia considers a kiss from the Tsar the highest sign of recognition.

A drizzle is drops of rain that is less than half a millimeter.

In its first 100 years, ballet was performed entirely by all male courtiers, some considered this as amateur entertainment.

Not a Picasso! Yes, artist Pablo Picasso was once so poor that he stayed warm by burning some of his own drawings.

Barred from marriage in 270 AD, Roman emperor Claudius II thought that married men made bad soldiers. Bishop Valentine disregarded the emperor's decree and continued to marry young lovers in secret until he was discovered and sentenced to death.

One of the longest serving heads of state is Fidel Castro. He is the world's third longest-serving head of state after the Queen of Britain and the King of Thailand.

Wear and tear Blue Note denim jeans were invented in San Francisco during the gold rush era for the miners.



# Sunday's Best and a Special Vest

By Larry Stiner Jr.  
Contributing Writer

Do you recall the last time you ventured into a house of worship? Remember how that strong feeling of comfort embraced you as you walked through those church doors, briefly leaving the chaos and danger of everyday life behind you? At ease, you exhaled and allowed your spirit to be swept up by the angelic voices of the robe-wearing choir members as you sought out the perfect seat.

Upon the pew, you sat and glanced around to take in the sight of smiling men, women and children all dressed up in their Sunday's best and waiting patiently to hear the pastor preach the word of God. Always powerful, the weekly message incorporated words of

peace, love and acceptance.

Now imagine closing your eyes and bowing your head to pray. And just before you can say "Amen," evil strikes: BANG! BANG! BANG! BANG! BANG! BANG! BANG! BANG! BANG!

Sadly, a scene like this actually played out during a recent Bible study session taking place in a historic black church located in Charleston, South Carolina. On a Wednesday evening, June 17, 2015, a young white male opened fire on a group of black church members who had welcomed him into their perceived sanctuary to join them in studying the Scriptures. Mercilessly, he pumped bullets

into innocent bodies, reloaded and pumped more bullets into the same bodies as if he wanted everyone to die twice.

Finally, the gunman stood over one of three surviving witnesses and made a racially inflammatory remark before exiting the church.

With nine people dead, including the pastor, and a killer on the loose, news of the massacre quickly spread. Soon, the shooter was in custody and details surrounding this unbelievable tragedy began to emerge.

I was both sad and mad at once and nothing has changed as I gauge my feelings today.

Once again, I find myself in

the midst of battling emotions. I am saddened by the unnecessary loss of such beautiful and productive lives. I feel deep sorrow for the families and friends of the deceased.

Moreover, my heart hurts for the black community as we have had to deal with so much pain in recent weeks, months and years. At the same time, the level of my fury remains high.

I am angry that a coward would commit such a horrendous crime out of pure hatred for a group of a different color. I am angry that certain media members and politicians initially did all they could to avoid calling this a hate crime and an act of domestic terrorism.

I am angry that I live in a world where racism keeps spearheading the murder of a people who have been in the crosshairs of America's rifle for more than four centuries.

And then there is that Confederate flag. I am angry that even in the wake of such a tragic event, that symbol of slavery and hate was still flying.

Yes I am angry but I also understand that action is needed to change things. Perhaps I should visit a church in honor of those nine victims. Perhaps I should bow my head in a house of worship and pray even stronger for peace, love and acceptance.

And if I do choose to go that route, you can bet I'll have a bulletproof vest on under my Sunday suit and I'll be praying with one eye open...just in case I need to stand my ground.

## An 'OG's' Perspective

# Love, Betrayal and Facing the Death Penalty

## BOOK REVIEW

By Juan Haines  
Managing Editor

I breezed through the novella *A Trial for Grace*, by Jessica Pishko (2015) in just a couple of days. It was an engaging read, a look at the life of a young legal professional who fell in love with a married man and then was sucked into his fraudulent world.

The protagonist, Claire Dunning, had to make a choice, commit to Jack and his world of scams or turn over incriminating evidence against him to the feds.

In the end, she made a sensible choice; she saved her skin and moved on.

Claire's desire to get away from the high-paced life of New York City to a small town in North Carolina seemed the perfect setting for starting over and making amends.

However, adjusting to a new law firm, tackling death pen-

alty cases, created a completely different life for Claire.

Her first client, Grace Delores, was found guilty of killing her child, and with her execution looming, Claire had to find some way to stop it.

When figuring out her relationship with Grace, Claire saw things like this:

The truth is the guilty make better clients: their memories are more exact, even if they are lies. The innocent are unable to explain themselves, lost in a terrible fantasy that someone else imagined for them.

Getting this truth from Pishko's lawyer-like mind shows the author's ability to create unpredictable complexity inside the mind of a character, which adds to believability.

I have the feeling that the richly developed characters in *A Trial for Grace* are not finished telling their story. This leaves me wondering if Pishko

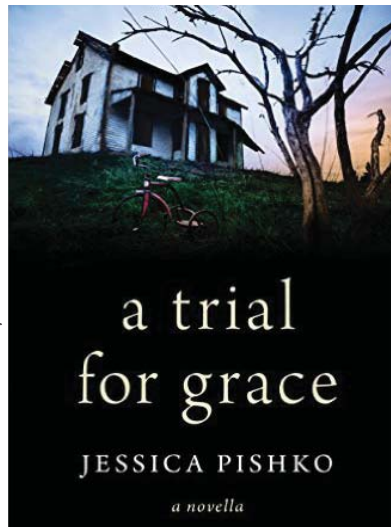
did this on purpose.

As an example, the quickness getting to the point when Claire meets her daughter makes me want to know what her childhood was like and what it means to be adopted.

The tall guy with a weather-beaten face, dressed as if for outdoor work is Henderson and the law firm's investigator. He has figured Claire out, which draws her close to him.

What was Henderson's "figuring out" process and why is Claire attracted to this characteristic?

What makes a story good is whether the author satisfies me with its arc, as well as leaving me with an unambiguous feeling about what really happened. I don't just like neatly



tied up endings; I love lingering questions that make good conversation among readers.

Such as, how do women on California's Death Row think about Claire's tenacity? Or, is Grace's request for postcards — *Stock visions of the outside world, a place no longer*

friendly to her — something that might really be craved by a condemned person?

For me, there are similarities in *A Trial for Grace* to David Guterson's *Snow Falling on Cedars*, (1995), in that both stories address flaws in the criminal justice system and both offer readers realistic insight into what it means to fight for someone trapped inside the law who could be subjected to the death penalty.

In *Trial for Grace*, you get this perspective from a lawyer while in *Snow Falling on Cedars* it comes from a journalist.

Nevertheless, the common thread — that the system is flawed — is portrayed in both novels.

I would recommend *A Trial for Grace* mainly because of Pishko's ability to tell a complex story from the perspective of a character who thinks about her mistakes — as well as flaws in the justice system — and who struggles with defining the degree of guilt that warrants the death penalty.

# Would You Sacrifice Yourself for the Greater Good of Mankind?

By S. Q. Reviews

Director Christopher Nolan's *Interstellar* poses a question: what is more important, survival of an individual or survival of the species?

The earth is becoming uninhabitable. Continued existence hinges on finding a new planet and figuring out how to propel a colony-sized space station past escape velocity.

In preparation for humankind's exodus, Joseph Cooper (Matthew McConaughey) and Amelia Brand (Anne Hathaway) lead a team of scientists on a mission to three galaxies to find humanity's next home.

Accepting the task means Cooper must leave behind his children. A promise to his daughter (Ellen Burstyn) elevates Nolan's film from an adventure about human survival to a story about the survival of a daughter's love for her absent

father.

When the members of S.Q. Reviews meet in the lot outside the Education Building in front of the *San Quentin News* room, we relate to this theme of a love that transcends time and space.

"*Interstellar* makes a great argument for the power of love," Emile DeWeaver says. "I generally think of love as a chemical response that perpetuates evolution, but I loved Dr. Brand's response to that idea. She said, 'Then why do we love dead people? What evolutionary purpose does that serve?' Love is an observable phenomenon that transcends time and space. We get a lot of infantilizing movies in prison, so it felt great to watch something complex for adults."

Juan Meza didn't like the choices the protagonist made

concerning fatherhood. DeWeaver poses a question: what would Meza tell his daughter after a 20-year absence? Our circle is silent while Meza thinks. We all ache with the decades we've been absent from our children.

"If I had a chance to be out and talk to my daughter, I'd say..." Meza shakes his head, searching for words. "I'd tell her it's not her fault that I left. Had I known that she existed, I would have changed my ways because she is that important to me."

"I missed my sons' lives," Thomas says. "There's no excuse or way to make up for that. There is nothing I can say, so I wouldn't say anything. All I can do is do what I can to show how much I love them."

Meza leans forward in his seat, shaking his head. "No.

There are certain things that your child wants to hear no matter how old they are. You have to say it."

"There's power in words," DeWeaver says "I grew up in an unstable environment that made me feel insecure all the time. I need to hear the unspoken, or I can never be sure it's actually there."

Jonathan Chiu is our quiet member. Thomas turns to him, determined to get Chiu on the record.

Cooper left Earth because the planet wouldn't survive for another two generations. For Chiu, one generation with his daughter is enough of a legacy.

"Knowing that she would live to an old age, I would have

stayed on the planet with my daughter," Chiu says.

We rated *Interstellar* 4 dinner cookies out of 5.

Rahsaan Thomas, Emile DeWeaver, Juan Meza and Jonathan Chiu contributed to this story.





# Theological Seminary Honors 15 Graduates at Fourth Annual Event



Photo by Sam Hearnes

Graduate Kevin Carr is overwhelmed and blessed

Continued from Page 1

“I am very humbled and grateful to have gotten the opportunity partaking in the seminary,” said Dirk Fauria. “I’m reminded that just as throughout Biblical history, it was men and women of God who were obedient to the call of God on their lives and to faithfully and fearlessly pass on the great news of God’s redemptive plan of salvation.” Billy Dooley added, “I found myself lost and in trouble but never knew that God was guiding me to gain knowledge in Golden Gate.”

“What a wonderful day this is for the graduating students,” Chaplain Mardi Jackson said in the opening ceremonies on June 19. *Amazing Grace* was sung by Darryl Hill Sr. “These graduates will be going out and will bring spiritual words to the neighborhood,” said Community Partnership Manager Steve Emrick. Graduates’ comments: “God’s hand is on San Quentin with all these opportunities,” said Juan Arballo. “I’ve been able to sit under very challenging teachers that have helped me guide my life

to better develop the calling has for my life.” “I never thought my life would be changed in a way that really matters,” said Timothy Young. “Always remember, we are never alone in our life’s journey. God is with us. God Bless.” “This journey has been one filled with joy and spiritual insight. Praise the Lord,” said Frank Taylor. “Almost anyone can start good, but you must have longevity to continue. Accept the vulnerability you may have to endure,” said Dr. Rick Durst, professor of Historical Theology.

*“This journey has been one filled with joy and spiritual insight. Praise the Lord”*

In attendance was seminary President Dr. Jeff Iorg. “God has given me a passion for getting the Gospel to every person,” Iorg’s statement in the seminary’s student catalog reads. “As a pastor, church planter, and denominational leader in a mission setting, I have committed my life to making the Gospel available to every person in every place.” Christian Ministries diplo-



Photo by Sam Hearnes

Dr. Iorg and H. Hemphill



Photo by Sam Hearnes

Dr. Iorg and F. Taylor

mas were awarded to Arballo, Young, Carr, Dooley, Fauria, Hill, Pedro Cruz, Fanon Figgers, Frederick Gaines, Michael Hampton, Antoine Watie, Trenton Capbell, Harry Hemphill and James King. Frank Taylor was awarded a Theology diploma. “Today is a monumental moment not only for me but for my family,” Carr said. “The pivotal moment for me was to see my 85-year-old grandmother come through those chapel doors (in a wheelchair). To see her smiling along with my aunt and two cousins brought me so much joy, honor and gratitude. My goal is to continue in whatever capacity I’m needed while managing a Christian transitional home upon my release.”



Photo by Sam Hearnes

Dr. Iorg and J. King



Photo by Sam Hearnes

Dr. Iorg and T. Capbell



Photo by Sam Hearnes

Dr. Iorg and B. Dooley



Photo by Sam Hearnes

Dr. Iorg and T. Young



Photo by Sam Hearnes

Dr. Iorg and F. Figgers



Photo by Sam Hearnes

Dr. Iorg and M. Hampton

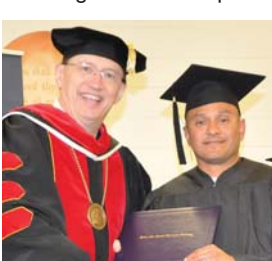


Photo by Sam Hearnes

Dr. Iorg and J. Arballo



Photo by Sam Hearnes

Graduate Pedro Cruz proudly shares his joy with family



Photo by Sam Hearnes

Graduate Antoine Watie is surrounded by family love



Photo by Sam Hearnes

Graduate F. Gaines is all smiles enjoying his family



Photo by Sam Hearnes

Graduate Dirk Fauria celebrates with his family



# Study Urges Prisons to Improve Visitations to Cut Recidivism

## Many Released Offenders Rely on Families and Friends for Employment Opportunities

By James R. Abernathy Jr.  
Journalism Guild Writer

Prisons should take steps to improve inmate visitation, which significantly reduces recidivism, a university study concludes.

“Revising visitation policies to make them more ‘visitor friendly’ may represent a

relatively low cost, potentially high benefit measure that correctional systems could take to help ease the burden of prison overcrowding and budget deficits,” said the report. It was authored by Grant Duwe and Valerie Clark on behalf of the Department of Criminology at Indiana University of Pennsylvania.

Visits from siblings, in-laws, fathers and clergy showed to be the most beneficial in reducing recidivism, the report said.

### STUDY

The study was conducted among 16,420 offenders released from Minnesota pris-

ons between 2003 and 2007 and 7,000 Florida inmates serving a minimum sentence of one year.

Researchers reported that visits from family and friends provide a means of establishing, maintaining and enhancing social support networks.

The strengthening of these social bonds is important because many released offenders rely on families and friends for employment opportunities, financial assistance and housing.

However, studies reveal that the policies and practices of prisons often impede visitation for three major reasons.

First, most prisons are located in rural areas. Since many prisoners come from poverty, their families cannot typically afford to travel to distant prisons.

Second, few prison visiting programs are designated to encourage visits. Many prisons perform background checks on potential visitors, and anyone with a criminal record is usually barred from visiting. Also, visiting hours are usually limited to a few hours and are only allowed on certain days.

Third, visiting programs can have poor service and uncomfortable settings. Families often have to wait long hours in line to get processed in with no rest rooms or vending ma-

chines and with poor air circulation.

### VISITS

During visits inmates and their visitors are closely watched and allowed little, if any, physical contact.

A 2008 study of Florida prisoners suggested that prisons can foster better visitation by implementing the following:

- Place inmates in facilities nearest to their home communities as possible
- Encourage community service agencies and organizations to visit inmates
- Ensure parking is available for visitors
- Expand visiting hours to evenings and weekends to accommodate visitors who are employed or have to travel long distances
- Decrease bureaucratic barriers to visitation
- Increase the cultural sensitivity of prison staff members
- Make sure that visitation rooms are clean, comfortable and hospitable.

Overall, research also suggests that correctional programming tends to be more effective when there is a continuum of care or service delivery from the prison to the community, the report noted.

# California Improves Discipline Policies for the Mentally Ill

## Change Prompted by Judge’s Ruling That Former Process Was Unconstitutional

By Nathan Hall  
Journalism Guild Writer

California has changed policies to improve treatment for mentally ill inmates, officials have announced. The action is in response to a federal court order.

“This is a very significant reform of the disciplinary process for prisoners with mental illness,” said Michael Bien, an attorney for the mentally ill prisoners who brought the legal action.

The change means mentally ill inmates who create prob-

lems will get counseling rather than going automatically to isolation cells or staying in prison longer.

The alternative treatment program was implemented after a federal judge ruled a year ago that its current procedure was unconstitutional and violated protection against cruel and unusual punishment.

U.S. District Judge Lawrence Karlton acted after the release of video made by correctional officers, showing guards pumping pepper spray into cells of mentally ill inmates, some screaming and

delirious. The tactic was used on one inmate who refused to take his medication.

Court-appointed monitor Matthew Lopez found that for more than seven years the Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation failed to follow court-directed policy on evaluating mentally ill inmates.

Bien credited CDCR Secretary Jeffrey Beard for making policy changes without waiting for another court order. In August the prisons agreed to create specialized housing and provide more treatment for mentally ill inmates.

# 24 Graduate From Centerforce Peer Health Education Class

By Kevin D. Sawyer  
Journalism Guild Chairman

Twenty four inmates graduated in June from Centerforce’s 12-week Peer Health Education training.

There were two classes of 12 men; one on Tuesday, the other on Thursday. Both completed training on subjects such as sexually transmitted infections (STIs), various forms of Hepatitis A, B and C, tuberculosis and HIV/AIDS.

According to Angel Falcone-Alvarez, an inmate Peer Health Educator for five years, other topics covered during the classes were personal health values, cultural humility, how individuals change behavior and communication skills.

“I got a more clear understanding of STDs, STI and HIV,” said Rodney Goldson. “I highly recommend the class so people will have a better understanding of HIV/AIDS and not have a phobia about it.” Upon his release he says he will work with a minorities AIDS project in the Los Angeles community.

Jessica Osorio, Peer Health Education Program Supervisor, said this was her fifth graduation, adding that because both classes were smaller, it helped everyone get comfortable with each other.

“We were able to get more in-depth,” said Osorio. “The questions and topics we cover are driven by the concerns of the men in blue. It gives them a lot of information they can relay to their friends and families in the community.”

Osorio said several Peer Health Educators have been released from prison and continue



Peer Health Educator Jessica Osorio and Dr. Julie Lifshay

Photo by Nigel Poor

to educate, “and that’s always a good thing to see.”

Keeping with training tradition, class participants were encouraged to continue to stay abreast of health issues and to make good use of the knowledge they acquired.

“This is one of the best certificates I ever received. It has my full name on it,” said Donald Walker. “I never knew there were two types of tuberculosis.” He said that he also learned about HIV/AIDS and about different categories of germs.

During each graduation ceremony, there is a ritual where the men form a circle, take a ball of string and toss it to a classmate on the other side of the circle. Each man then wraps it around his hand three times as they say, “Luz, vida, esperanza,” (which means: light, life, hope) and share an experience or something they learned during the 12

weeks.

The process is repeated until they form a web in the center of the circle symbolizing their bond and common humanity.

“From the outside looking in, I see that participation is vital to help others including myself,” said Joel Moore, 29, an inmate volunteer Peer Health Educator (PHE) who helps with logistics and other details.

Walter “OT” Johnson has been a PHE for one year. He said he completed the training in 2012. “I was amazed at how much influence the guys in blue had on the class.”

This was inmate Tommy Ross Shakur’s second graduation as a PHE. He said during the class there was a misconception about the number of inmates with hepatitis. “In this class they were engaging with their participation. Some guys challenged the education but that

was OK.”

“Centerforce is awesome,” said Falcone-Alvarez. Like his colleagues he said he recommends all inmates take time to learn what the program has to offer.

“The level of intellect and curiosity was different (in these classes). They asked important questions,” said Lonnie Morris, who has been a PHE for 10 years. He has seen hundreds of men graduate from the program.

According to Osorio, PHEs are currently helping to coordinate the World AIDS Day event to be held at San Quentin in December to provide education on the state of HIV/AIDS. She said there will be a ceremony in the Protestant Chapel with outside guests and community groups.

Centerforce is one of the longest running groups at San Quentin, founded in 1975.

For more than 16 years, Centerforce has provided its peer education class at San Quentin. It also provides parolees with housing referrals, links individuals with chronic illnesses to transitional case management providers and assists with education and employment goals.

Centerforce is a nonprofit organization funded by donations and grants. It is a primary sponsor of the Annual Health Fair at San Quentin along with TRUST and the Alameda County Public Health Department.

At San Quentin, Centerforce is led under the direction of Dr. Julie Lifshay, Health and Special Projects Manager.

### The June Peer Health Education graduates are:

**Thurs., June 11, 2015**

**Robbie Bennett  
Russell Bowden  
Reginald Cooper  
Nathan Hall  
Frank Hicks  
Christopher Markham  
Richard Mayer  
Nathan McKinney  
Robert Ortiz  
Gustavo Pureco  
Maurice Reed  
Robert Robbins**

**Tues., June 16, 2015**

**Guadalupe Aranda  
Robert Craig  
Ronell Draper  
Louis Hunter  
Rodney Goldson  
Lamone Jones  
Joseph Krauter  
James Parker  
Lionel Scott  
Donald Thompson  
Donald Walker  
Leroy Williams**



# Rap Music and the Influence it Has on Society

By **Rahsaan Thomas**  
Sports Editor

What kind of influence does rap music have? Is it just entertainment, politically driven or negative motivation? The Yard Talk panel discussed these issues, and their answers were mixed.

**J. “Killa Clown” Medvin**, 30, is a Caucasian rapper from Santa Rosa, California. For Medvin, rap was an escape from life’s horrors, like his drug-addicted father.

“Rap was a positive influence for me,” said Medvin. “Songs like Tupac’s *Dear Momma*, *Unconditional Love* and *Brenda’s Got a Baby* showed me humanity and compassion.”

**David Jassy**: “Rap was more positive than negative growing up. The whole thing back then was we were breaking [dancing] instead of fighting. That was what was so positive about

## Yard Talk

the movement.”

**Medvin**: “Rap can be both negative and positive. It’s also an entertainment and you have to realize that. If you kill somebody and blame it on rap music then you probably have psychological issues already.”

While Medvin believes music can’t be the root cause of an issue, studies support that exposure to violent media increases aggression-related thoughts and behavior. Exposure to positive music also increases pro-society thoughts and tendencies. (Tobias Greitemeyer, *Effects of songs with prosocial lyrics on prosocial thoughts, affect, and behavior*, Journal of Experimental Social Psychology).

Experiments have provided evidence that people are ca-

pable of committing evil acts under certain situational forces. “The expectations of others often become self-fulfilling prophecies,” wrote Phillip Zimbardo in *The Lucifer Effect: Understanding How Good People Turn Evil* (p. 321.) “We often become who other people think we are, in their eyes.”

Mainstream rap music often tells its audience that being drug dealers makes sense.

*“I’ve seen it all; you have no choice but to get involved; you either spit it raw, sold coke or dribble the ball,”* rapped Meek Mills on Dream Chasers 3.

**Eric Curtis**: “Four members of N.W.A. (rap group) are from my hood in Compton. Everything they were pushing, I was trying to push...and it spread like wildfire. Rap went hand

in hand with gang bangers, and gang banging was worse than crack cocaine. It killed off more people.”

**Lewis**: “You had rappers pushing products they weren’t even endorsed to do, but it made me want those products. Easy-E’s brand was Old English 800, if I want to be like him, I gotta drink Old E. He had a low rider, I wanted a Low ride or a G-ride, because they had a stolen car story.”

**Johnson**: “When I was out there, the music wasn’t gangster rap. When Dana Dane [an old school rapper] spoke of robbing someone and getting lockup, it was a cautionary tale. It didn’t stop us from doing what we did, but we went into these things informed from the cautionary tales. Now you have absent daddies where individuals get instructions from someone who doesn’t mean them any good. Rap is telling kids today that success

comes from having a Bentley. If you don’t have these things, then you are nothing; you can’t enter into this social circle. It makes kids want to cut corners to get what rappers say make you relevant.”

**Antwan “Banks” Williams, age 27**: “Rap is more negative on our youth nowadays. If rappers portray their life as money, strippers, guns and drugs, they are going to attract easily influenced youngsters and adults.”

Most of the panel concluded rap has become a harmful authority to its listeners. It convinces many youths their only hope of overcoming the ghetto is to sell drugs, rap or play a sport. In doing so, it pushes an agenda of cultural destruction.

In the third installment of this six-part series, the Yard Talk panel will discuss how “keeping it real” ruined rap.

*Trenise Ferreira contributed to this story.*

# Hot August Nights and the Hottest People We Can’t Forget

By **Angelo Falcone**  
Journalism Guild Writer

The month of August is the fifth of seven months with 31 days. A full moon is expected on Saturday, Aug. 29. For Christians, the solemnity of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary occurs on Saturday, Aug. 15.

*The World Almanac* reports August is Black Business Month, Happiness Happens Month, National Immunization Awareness Month and National

## Asked On The Line

Toddler Month.

The two astrological signs in August are Leo, the sign of the Lion (July 23 to Aug. 22), and Virgo, the sign of the Virgin (Aug. 23 to Sep. 22). The August birthstone is the sardonyx or peridot.

August brings on strong summer heat. Being “hot” can be an uncomfortable feeling in one sense, but it can also describe a

very good-looking person.

In honor of people who mainliners find outrageously “hot,” Asked On The Line inquired: “Who is or was the most attractive person you have met or known in person? And in your opinion, who is the hottest celebrity you have ever seen?”

Jesus Flores: “The hottest woman I know is my wife, Rachel, and I think Eva Longoria is

the most good-looking actress.”

Kevin Myers: “The hottest girlfriend I ever dated was a model named Janet. The hottest celebrity is Ninel Conde.”

Manuel Murillo: “My first love, Magdalena Ochoa, was the prettiest girl I ever met. When I was a teenager, Magdalena was my sweetheart. We met in school. The hottest celebrity to me is a tie between Marilyn

Monroe and Salma Hayek.”

Vicente Gomez: “The prettiest girl I ever knew was named Edilia. We lived in the same neighborhood when we were adolescents. For me, Maribel Guardia is the most beautiful woman. I love every movie and television show she has been in.”

Forest Jones: “Tracy Caffaro. I met her at a KFC in 1991. She was about 5’9” with long hair that went down past her waist. She had just bought a bucket of fried chicken and I asked her if I could jump into her bucket so she could take me home. She laughed and said, ‘Yes.’ Angelina Jolie is one of most attractive celebrities I have ever seen. I love everything about her.”

Juan Arballo: “The most beautiful woman I know is my girlfriend, Tammy. The most attractive celebrity is Sharon Stone.”

# Department of Justice Probes Florida Prison Deaths in 2014

## Mentally Ill Inmate Was Allegedly Locked in a 180-Degree Scalding Shower

By **Marcus Henderson**  
Journalism Guild Writer

After a series of inmate deaths, the U.S. Department of Justice is investigating the Florida prison system.

With 320 inmate deaths for 2014 as of Dec. 8, the Florida prison system was on track for its deadliest year in history, according to a Dec. 13 article in the *Miami Herald*.

Florida has the third-largest prison system in the nation, with 101,000 inmates and a \$2.1 billion budget.

The rise of prison deaths coincides with an aging prison population and the doubling of incidents involving use of force by officers over the past five years, the *Herald* reported.

The public outcry by human rights groups and prison reform activists caused state lawmakers to scrutinize the prison system.

In the midst of the uproar, Gov. Rick Scott hired Julie Jones as Department of Corrections secretary, replacing Mike Crews, who retired.

“If nothing else, the corrections officers and the people running the institutions have been put on notice that someone else is watching them, and they are no longer policing themselves,” said David Weinstein, a former federal pros-

ecutor in Miami.

In one of many suspicious deaths, Bernadette “Brandi” Gregory, 42, was found hanged in her cell at the Lowell Correctional Institution in 2009.

Her death came four days after she filed a written complaint that a correctional officer captain had beaten her and bashed her over the head with a radio, DOC records show.

“I will not sleep on this. I will follow through to the end and press charges,” Gregory said in her complaint.

Prison authorities said Gregory tied a double knot in a sheet, twisted it several times around her top bunk, looped the other end around her neck and hanged herself – all this in 11 minutes from her wheelchair while handcuffed.

Gregory was getting out in eight months and records show she repeatedly complained that officers were ridiculing her and falsified disciplinary reports to place her in solitary confinement.

Debbie Escoe, a retired Lowell corrections officer who helped cut Gregory down, said, it would have been difficult – but not impossible – for her to tie the ligature in 11 minutes while handcuffed in front of her torso.

Escoe added that she doubts that Gregory’s death was the result of foul play because sur-

veillance cameras would have shown everyone who came and went from her confinement cell.

Linda Thompson, a former Lowell inmate, described to the *Herald* seeing a group of corrections officers flipping over Gregory’s wheelchair while kicking and beating her the day she died.

A spokesman for the department said Gregory’s death was thoroughly investigated, and two officers were disciplined for failing to follow procedure and failing to protect Gregory.

After the death of Darren Rainey in 2012, former DOC Secretary Crews announced a series of reforms.

Rainey 50, a mentally ill inmate, was allegedly locked in a 180-degree scalding shower by corrections officers at Dade Correctional Institution as punishment for defecating on the floor of his cell and refusing to clean it up.

Crews forced DCI’s warden and deputy warden to step down. Even though he fired more than two dozen officers for excessive force that led to the deaths of inmates, many have gotten their jobs back,

the newspaper reported.

The new inmate mortality database, which lists all inmates’ deaths, is one of the reforms initiated by Crews that is receiving criticism.

Families of inmates say the supplementary reports that detail the deaths are so heavily redacted that they are unreadable. The families are forced to hire lawyers and go to court for the un-redacted reports.

The “transparency database,” as Crews called it, only posts inmates deaths that are deemed accidents, homicides or suicides.

“They are getting away with murder, quite frankly,” said Ron McAndrew, a retired Florida warden who is now a prison consultant.

“There are cases that go back decades and not just state correctional institutions, but juvenile institutions as well.” A shake-up in the department is long overdue, McAndrew added.

In the mid-1970s, the federal courts oversaw the Florida prisons for more than two decades to relieve overcrowding and provide adequate medical care.

Corrections: In last month’s July 70 Edition of the San Quentin News, the articles Veterans’ Dramas, Memorial Day and Shakespeare photo captions were mislabeled. Instead, Leroy Lucas and Sam Hearnese should be credited for taking the photos.



**1. San Quentin** — Death of condemned inmate Michael Lamont Jones, 44, is being investigated as a possible suicide, prison officials said. He was pronounced dead, May 25 at 3:51 p.m.

**2. San Quentin** — A group of Death Row inmates has filed a federal lawsuit against the state for keeping them in the Adjustment Center at San Quentin State Prison for years, even decades, locked in windowless cells with no phone calls or human contact, *The Associated Press* reports. Its treatment, they said, “amounts to torture.” According to the suit, they are held in their cells 21 to 24 hours a day with no natural light, no access to education or work programs, no phone calls and no contact visits from family members, who must speak to them by phone across a glass barrier.

**3. Raleigh, N.C.** — Henry McCollum, 51, and Leon Brown, 47, qualified for \$750,000 from the state for being wrongfully imprisoned for three decades. The brothers were convicted for the 1983 murder and rape of an 11-year-old girl. DNA evidence pointed to another man, *The Associated Press* reports.

**4. Fresno** — Advocates for Fresno County jail inmates said that the county has settled a lawsuit alleging mistreatment, *The Associated Press* reports. The settlement improves care for inmates with chronic ailments and mental health issues.

**5. Little Rock, Ark.** — Ulonzo Gordon will get a new sentencing hearing after the state’s high



court upheld a lower court ruling that he should receive a new sentence consistent with a 2012 U.S. Supreme Court ruling barring mandatory life sentences for juveniles, *The Associated Press* reports.

**6. Montgomery, Ala.** — A settlement has been reached between prison officials and the U.S. Justice Department, which found that correctional officers at Julia Tutwiler Prison coerced inmates into sex, watched them shower, use the bathroom and organized a New Year’s Eve strip show, *The Associated Press* reports. The settlement came after

months of negotiations about changes that include requirements to have sexual abuse and harassment allegations properly and thoroughly reported, a tracking system for prison staff, installation of monitoring cameras, increased privacy in bathrooms and the hiring of a compliance manager to comply with the federal Prison Rape Elimination Act.

**7. Lincoln, Neb.** — Gov. Pete Ricketts and several officials, including a state senator and a Toastmaster director, visited 15 inmates who participate in a club that helps them connect and

communicate with others, *The Associated Press* reports. The INnovators Club helps prisoners learn how to communicate with others and to appropriately disagree with alternative opinions.

**8. Hartford, Conn.** — John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation awarded Connecticut a \$150,000 grant to help the state come up with a plan to reduce the number of people jailed while awaiting trial or serving short sentences, *The Associated Press* reports. The grant is one of 20 across the nation.

**9. New York City** — City officials have agreed to reforms at

Rikers Island, including the appointment of a federal monitor to oversee the jail complex, prohibitions against guards striking prisoners in the head and even the introduction of body cameras to be worn by guards, *The Associated Press* reports. Other reforms include the development of a computerized system to better track the use of force by correction officers, the implementation of an early warning program to flag guards who use force against inmates three or more times in six months, injuring at least one of them, and the installation of 8,000 new surveillance cameras throughout the jail complex.

**10. Chicago** — Jason Strong, 39, was released from prison after his conviction for a 1999 murder was overturned. County prosecutors found that findings by pathologists were erroneous and that witnesses were pressured by authorities to say Strong did the killing, *The Associated Press* reports.

**11. New York** — Shabaka Shakur was released from prison after a judge ruled there was a “reasonable probability” Shakur’s confession was fabricated, and he was granted a new trial, *The Associated Press* reports. Shakur spent 27 years behind bars for the 1988 killing of two friends.

**12. Chicago** — Angel Gonzalez, 41, received a certificate of innocence from a county judge for a 1994 abduction and rape, *The Associated Press* reports. DNA evidence cleared him of the crime.

## We Can Use Your Help

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# Williams, ‘ATL’ MVPs of All-Star Game

**By Rahsaan Thomas  
Sports Editor**

Allan McIntosh and Oris “Pep” Williams out-shined the All-Star competition while leading the East to an 82-76 victory over the West in the Intramural Basketball League.

Williams was named the MVP for the East and Harry “ATL” Smith for the West by Commissioner Ishmael Freelon. “I think we (McIntosh) should be co-MVPs,” said Williams.

McIntosh led all scores with 28 points and 7 rebounds. Williams posted a double-double with 15 points, 11 rebounds, 5 assists and 6 steals.

Members of rival teams became allies in the June 14 game that featured some of the best basketball players in San Quentin pitted against each other.

“I wanted somebody from every team and they were chosen by their stats,” said Freelon.

Orlando Harris is the head coach of the S.Q. Kings and the Squad Up intramural team. He coached the East team.

East members were McIntosh, Williams, J. “Mailman” Ratchford, Derrick Cart-



Oris “Pep” Williams hustling for a loose ball with fellow King, Tare “Cancun” Beltran

wright, Charles Sylvester, Jason Jones, Tommie Nellon, D. Zaid Nicholson, Kevin Carr and D. “Frog” Dewitt. (Carr and Dewitt didn’t attend.)

The West team was coached by Franchise intramural team coach and S.Q. Warrior forward Brad Shells. His team members were “ATL” Smith, Donte Smith, Montrell Vines, F. “Dot. Com” Hicks, Antonio Cavitt, Jamal Green, DePriest Brown, Seven Singh, Larry “TY” Jones and K. Shaheed. (Jones didn’t attend.)

“I know everybody’s game

out here, so the guys I was playing with, I know their strengths. I know how to get them the ball,” said McIntosh.

Foul trouble and turnovers plagued the West during the first half.

“We were up by 18 and then they made a nice run. They played great defense in the second half to get the game back within one. Then we found our groove and got our momentum back,” said Williams.

Things changed for the West when Hicks came off the bench. His smothering defense caused



Harry “ATL” Smith going up over defenders in a 2014 Intramural game

turnovers for the East, plus Hicks was able to knock down threes and get to the rack.

“ATL” Smith also started playing like a man determined to win, after a slow start.

Smith led his team with 24 points and 22 rebounds, 3 assists and a steal. Hicks added 23 points, 6 rebounds, 2 assists and 5 steals.

Brown dropped 13 with 7 rebounds, 4 steals and 2 blocks, along with Donte Smith’s 11 points and 6 rebounds in the comeback attempt.

With 6 minutes and 17 sec-

onds left in the fourth quarter, the West was down 73-72 and seemed poised to take the lead. Then the East made a run.

Williams drove to the rack for a layup in traffic, yelling, “Agghhhh!”

Then Nellon blocked a pass, stole the ball from midair and attempted to make a layup. He missed but grabbed his own rebound and powered up for the basket, making the score, 77-72. From there the East never looked back.

Nellon, Jones and Nicholson scored nine points each.

# A’s Game Ends in 2-2 Tie With Muscle Milk

**By Marcus Henderson  
Journalism Guild Writer**

Tough defense and a pitching duel left the San Quentin A’s and the Benicia Muscle Milk tied, 2-2.

The A’s found themselves in a battle with some baby-faced youngsters fresh out of high school.

These athletic youth managed to score two quick runs in the first inning.

After a couple of walks, Milk’s Nate Edwins hit a single up the centerfield gap to bring in Elliot Palmer.

Haas Walling showed his patience as he worked against a 2-3 count. He hit a line drive to right field to score Dillon

Habbeger for the 2-0 lead.

“Their pitcher is keeping every pitch active, so you have to stay focused. Just like life, everything doesn’t go your way, but when they do, you have to take advantage of it,” said Walling.

The A’s regrouped and showed what grown men could do by turning double plays with finesse.

The A’s scored the hard way in the first. After a couple of walks and a single from Reggie Hunt, Rob Tyler hit a sacrifice fly to right field to score Bilal Coleman.

The Milk still didn’t give an inch. Pitcher Brett Brightwell struck out the next batter, and the shortstop fielded a ground

ball for the easy play at first base.

“I got into a rhythm and found the location for my fastball. It’s fun to play these guys. They are committed to the sport, and they make you compete,” said Brightwell.

A’s pitcher Carlyle “Otter” Blake kept batters off balance and second guessing for seven innings.

The A’s scored again in the sixth. Cleo Cloman singled, and Royce Rose hit a double to drive Cloman home to tie it 2-2.

Milk fought back as catcher Jerry Huson threw out Blake trying to steal second. That was the second time Huson caught the A’s stealing.

Brightwell topped it off with back-to-back strikeouts. He had six for the game.

The A’s bought in veteran pitcher Isaiah Thompson-Bonilla to close out the eighth and ninth.

The Milk struggled to score in both innings; the A’s defense was on top of everything.

The A’s had a chance to win the game with a man on third and two outs. Hunt stepped to the plate and hit a deep ball to left field.

Walling of the Milk made a magnificent catch off the left field gate, ending this June 27 game in a tie, as playing time ran out. The game couldn’t continue past the ninth inning

because yard was recalled for the 8 p.m. count.

“That was probably the best baseball game played this season. It was fun playing those youngsters. Our starting pitcher Blake pitched one hell of a game,” said Thompson-Bonilla.

“I’m proud of these guys; they battled all nine innings, and we need this type of game,” said A’s Head Coach John “Yah Yah” Parratt.

Milk Head Coach Mike Palmer added, “I love playing these guys and getting a chance to fellowship. It’s more than just a game; it’s about faith and helping these guys transition back into society.”

# Bench Players Roll Over Lincoln Hill Team, 69-47

San Quentin Warriors role and bench players showed their talents in a 69-47 rout of the Lincoln Hill Community Church basketball team.

Warrior Head Coach Daniel Wright gave his three best players – Allan McIntosh, Harry “ATL” Smith and Anthony Ammons – the game off.

“I was inspired by the Golden State Warriors to try playing small ball against Lincoln Hill,” said Wright.

S.Q. Warrior General Manager Robert “Bishop” Butler set the tone with a pre-game speech.

“Greatness of the soul is available to those who do not have the luxury of being ecstatic about their bodies or appearance,” said Butler. “We may not be LeBron or Stephen Curry, but we can have greatness of the soul.”

Julio Saca said, “It feels good to be playing my first game of



Rafeal Bankston posing with Warriors Miguel Sifuentes, Brad Shells, DuPriest Brown and equipment manager Elijah Fejeran

the season after coming off an injury. I feel I still have some things to work on, like slowing down. I can help my team where they need me to help out

– I have to figure out my role.”

Saca led the Warriors with 13 points on 5 for 9 shooting, including 3 made treys.

Even Warrior equipment

manager Elijah Fejeran got to play a few minutes and managed to knock down a 3-pointer.

Despite the final score, the Lincoln Hill team was competitive. They had former overseas pro Bart Gijbels, who is 6-foot-8, on their side. The 44-year-old says he played in Belgium, France and Germany.

His teammate, Dave Gordon, also played well, getting to the rack several times and drawing fouls, but only hit 3 out of 12 free-throw attempts.

Steve Watkins had 10 points and 11 rebounds for Lincoln Hill.

The Warriors were only ahead 28-22 at the half.

At halftime, Pastor and Lincoln Hill player Miguel Rodriguez delivered an inspirational message.

He advised everyone to be open to learning and growing. He used the fact that climbers finally reached the top of Mt.

Everest, the tallest mountain in the world, after learning from more than 140 failed expeditions.

“Mt. Everest won’t conquer us because it can’t grow anymore, but we can,” said Rodriguez to both teams crowded around midcourt. “With God’s help, we can grow and climb mountains of righteousness.”

In the third quarter the Warriors depth overwhelmed Lincoln Hill, ending the quarter 50-33 and leaving Lincoln Hill permanently in the rearview mirror.

“Otter and Julio stood out to me,” said Wright after the game.

Carlyle “Otter” Blake played like a super-charged Energizer bunny. He scored eight points.

“My main concern with Julio was, ‘Is he 100 percent healthy before donning a Warriors uniform?’” said Wright.

–By Rahsaan Thomas



# Hart Highlights Record-Breaking Track Meet

By Marcus Henderson  
Journalism Guild Writer

Olympic Gold Medalist Eddie Hart recently gave running advice on the San Quentin Lower Yard where several 1000 Mile Club members broke records.

"It's all about technique and relaxation at the last part of a 200- or 400-meter race," Hart said.

Hart won a Gold Medal while breaking the world record as the anchor for a 400-meter relay race at the 1972 Olympics. Because of a mix-up with scheduling, he missed a 100-meter race and his chance to compete for another Gold Medal. Since then he has coached track and competed in other track events.

Now he has the Eddie Hart All in One Foundation. "I felt compelled to start the (foundation) to use my name, influence, relationships and resources to make a positive difference in the lives of youngsters," Hart told the crowd.

This was his third San Quentin visit in three years. Before the track meet, Hart told the runners circled around him how to run better.

"The body is made to run a certain way. You never want to strike the ground with the

heel of the foot. The ankle is designed to absorb shock, but you have to hit the ground just behind the toes to absorb shock. If you land on your heels, the excess shock is taken up by the knee. That's why a lot of people have knee problems. When you first start running correctly, you are going to have soreness in your calf. That's OK; it will go away."

Hart also talked about the importance of staying relaxed when running.

"When you are sprinting, you want a nice even knee lift, just below the hip. When you are trying to increase your stride, you do it by what happens behind you. You want to completely extend the back toe off the ground as your front knee comes up. That's sprinting. Lift front leg up, don't extend it."

Four new records were set at the track meet on June 26.

A group of about 50 inmates witnessed Eddie Herena break his 2013 one-mile record by four seconds with the time of 5:10.29.

Clifton Williams won the quarter-mile for the 50 and older runners to set a new record at 1:09.21.

The half-mile record breaker, Markelle Taylor, left the competition in the distance with the

time of 2:14.32.

In the 50 and older 100-meter race, Tone Evans was timed at 12.26 to beat his 2014 record by .15 second. He also lowered to 25.63 the 200-meter record for the same age group set by Winfred Saddler at 26.11 in 2012.

"When you have Eddie Hart and the 1000 mile coaches here, it's all worth it," said Evans.

Hart added, "The first time I was here, I didn't know what to expect. I got a chance to know the guys and share my experiences. Now I have the chance to teach about diet, exercise and techniques. These guys are like sponges; they take it all in. Track is a lot like life; it's about adjustments. So with my foundation, I'm trying to improve the human condition to be free of injuries and diseases."

The meet started in a high competitive spirit when Oscar Aguilar and Eddie "Edito" DeWeaver collided at the start of the 100-meter. Aguilar stayed in his lane and coasted to victory. DeWeaver had a clean start to win the 200-meter.

"I thank Eddie (Hart) for the racing tips. I dedicate this win to my daughter, but most of all I thank Yaweh for my health," said DeWeaver.

Morceli Abdel Kader took the



Photo by Trevor Shultz

1000 Mile Club coaches R.J. Lozada, Melody Anne Schultz, Frank Ruona, Eddie Hart, and Kevin Rumon

quarter-mile in 57.07 by running the track corners with finesse to break the 60.60 record set by Nghiep Lam.

"I was able to break a record even with my injury. I thank Eddie (Hart) and the outside volunteers for their support. They have bigger hearts than we do. Their support helps us feel free and to change our behavior," said Kader.

The 4x400 meter relay climaxed the warm day events. Jesus Sanchez, Reynaldo Campos, Carlos Moreno and Oscar

Aguilar passed the baton with skill to blow by the rest of the pack.

Albert Mendez was named star of the day. "Mendez has been injured most of the track season and today he ran in all the races, not caring where he placed," said Assistant Coach Kevin Rumon.

Volunteer timekeeper Melody Schultz added, "I've been running for 20 years and watching these guys inspires me."

—Rahsaan Thomas  
contributed to this story

## Hardtimers Take Down Diego Brothers, 18-15

The San Quentin Hardtimers and the Diego Brothers softball game resembled a homerun derby as the Hardtimers edged the Diego Brothers 18-15.

The Diego Brothers opened the first inning with 10 straight runs.

Anthony Firenzi started the rally with a line drive double to centerfield. Then Sean Morgan belted the ball over the right field gate.

After the next two batters hit singles, Todd Morris found the same spot over the right field gate.

"That's what you call chicken wings," said Morris over a group of hecklers.

J.D. Diego belted in three more runs with a triple. Next, Ryno Fisher smashed the ball over the left field gate for the 10-0 lead.

The Hardtimers answered back with a rally scoring seven runs.

Nghiep Ke Lam opened with a powerful hit over the right field gate to the cheers of the small crowd and his teammates.

John "Dunie" Windham belt-

ed in two runs when he sent the ball deep over the left field gate. Isaiah "Zeke" Daniels drove in two more runs with a triple, while Cory Woods brought Daniels in with a single.

"They came to play today, and that's what we came for -- good competition," said Diego Brother Morgan.

The Hardtimers defense shut-down the Diego Brothers for two innings. Meantime, Ke Lam hit homeruns in the second and third for the 12-10 lead.

With one runner on in the

fourth, the Diego Brothers tied the game with another homerun from Morgan.

In the fifth, the Hardtimers retook the lead, 13-12, when Windham smashed a homer over the right field gate.

The Hardtimers put up five runs in the sixth. Windham contributed another homerun and a RBI, this time to centerfield. Ke Lam drove in two runs off a triple. DuPriest Brown bought Ke Lam in off a single for the 18-12 lead.

With their last at-bat, the Diego Brothers scored three runs.

Fisher doubled to bring in Jim Grove and Tommy "T-Doe" Dobberstein.

Firenzi double to score Fisher, but with two outs Morgan pop-flied to center field to end the sunny June 26 game.

"Today we jelled. We played as a team," said Ke Lam. Windham added, "We banged it out today. These guys are awesome."

"This was a battle, but the team with the most runs in the end wins," said Diego coach Phil Martino.

—By Marcus Henderson

## Don Smith Aids in Green Team 93-81 Win Over Kings

By Rahsaan Thomas  
Sports Editor

The visiting Green Team's oldest player, Don Smith, helped his squad rally from a 17-point deficit to defeat the San Quentin Kings, 93-81.

"It was a nice Father's Day present for me," said Smith, who is about 60 years old and 5-foot-8.

The Green Team went on a 19-point run to retake the lead in the third quarter of the June 20 game. This included a pass from Pat Lacey to Smith in the corner for a three-pointer. This put the Green Team ahead 51-44 with 8:06 left in the quarter, setting the stage for Smith's contribution.

Just before the Kings' game, the Christian Sports Ministry (Green Team) sponsor — Smith — watched his basketball team play the first half of a double-header against the S.Q. Warriors. (The Warriors lost 73-70)

After the Warriors game, several players couldn't stay, leaving only four to face the Kings. This forced Smith and Coach Bill Epling to take an active role

on the court. They also recruited S.Q. Warrior Montrell Vines.

"To play with great players is a treat," said Smith.

The Green Team started off on the wrong foot, as center Lacey turned the ball over on the first two possessions. The Kings took advantage, gaining the 17-point lead.

The Green Team started its push late in the second quarter,

but still was down, 44-36, at the half. Then two things changed the momentum. Lacey gave his team a pep talk during a huddle and Smith came off the bench.

"Play hard and everybody rebound," said Lacey.

Smith set the tone by stealing the ball from a Kings player and his team rallied around Lacey's speech and Smith's hustle.

"Lacey has a Gregg Popovich

beard going, so we're all scared of him," joked Bobby Williams. "He's a great motivator."

Smith finished with 3 points, 1 rebound, 1 assist and 2 steals. He nailed another shot from three-point range after pump-faking a defender, but the ref called "traveling."

King guard Oris "Pep" Williams played with determination in the fourth quarter, nailing

five shots in a row. His 32 points and 15 rebounds combined with J. "Mailman" Ratchford's 14 points and 16 rebounds to bring the Kings within four at 71-67 with seven minutes on the game clock.

The Kings' rally fell short against teamwork. Four Green Team players had double-doubles.

Chris Blees led his team with 28 points, 10 rebounds, 6 assists and 4 steals. Lacey added 20 points, 14 boards, 7 assists and 3 blocks. Bobby Williams contributed 13 points and 17 rebounds. Brandon Curtis squeezed in 11 points and 10 boards with a last second rebound.

"Painful," said Curtis about how it felt to get a double-double against the Kings.

"We were dedicated to play hard," said B. Williams.

"It's what we had to do and everybody bought into it," said Lacey.

Vines dropped 16 points.

"It's hard to recruit anybody good enough to play the Warriors and very few against the Kings. The Kings are tough," said Epling after the game.



Photo by Sam Hearnes

Pat Lacey, Don Smith guarding Timothy Long, R. Ratchford, and Chris Blees



# Juneteenth Celebration Rocks the San Quentin Lower Yard

*‘All these songs represent some type of love, but no matter what, there is nothing greater in this world than love’*

**Marcus Henderson**  
Journalism Guild Writer

It was all about spreading love at the *Funk on the Green Juneteenth* celebration.

Juneteenth is about the remembrance of the slaves in Texas finally hearing in 1865 that they were free. When the sun finally broke through the clouds, over 100 inmates gather

to watch the event. “This is our Memorial and Independence Day. It’s good to see that everybody came out to celebrate,” said Micheal Polk. The June 20<sup>th</sup> concert on San Quentin’s Lower Yard. The “One Man Band” named Allen “Squirrel” Ware opened the show with six original jazz tunes. The crowd went crazy when he sang about a relation-

ship in “All about the money” and “Sunshine.” “Ware was the first one to look out for me back in 1979. He gave me a T.V. and whatever I needed. Things were different back then. It would be good to see him go,” said Polk. Harun Taylor was MC for the event, and gave a moving improvisation of a slave who just received the news that he was free. Taylor depicted a 30-year-old slave named Abner Josephus Mac Williams who lived to be 180. Taylor used the character to take the crowd on a history lesson where Blacks fought for freedom in every major war, be it for themselves or others.

“Juneteenth is American’s history, even though it’s not taught in schools. We are Americans. We must sit back and take account that freedom isn’t free; it comes with a price,” said Taylor. A band named The New Syndicate of Funk livened up the crowd with old school songs including Earth, Wind and Fire’s “Can’t Hide Love,” and Frankie Beverly and Maze’s “Before I Let Go.”

Lead singer Rico Rogers performed an original song, “You Don’t Know” to the crowds delight. The Just Us Band added its own funk and soul featuring songs by John Windham, Darryl “Champ” Hill, and spoken word “I am 2.0” from Taylor.

“All these songs represent some type of love, but no matter what, there is nothing greater in this world than love,” said Hill. “We really made today a celebration; that’s what’s important to us,” said bass player Darryl Farris.

The rap group A and R rocked with their song “She Loves It.” Jason Jones and Maurice Reed got the crowd on their feet to join in. “That’s the response we were looking for; we got the people to do our dance. It’s good to see everybody getting along and brothers in blue supporting each other,” said Reed. Dwight Krisman asked the crowd to pray for long-time volunteer Audrey Auld, who suffers from cancer. Krisman, who is White, also led a moment of silence prayer for the Black church murder victims in South Carolina.

George “Mesro” Coles-El read his poem call “Victory.” The lines include: “Victory is living for the day. Victory is standing firm in the mist of evil. Victory is life.”

Eric Curtis read one of his short stories of a struggling family and its goal: not to commit the same mistakes.

Closing out the day was Paul Comauex and Friends with a tribute to legendary B.B. King. As Comauex sang, Joe Mason and Lee Jasper made their guitars scream the blues. When they ended with the “Thrill is Gone” the dwindling crowd gave their final cheers.

“What is a better way to end the day than by honoring one of our greatest with the ‘Thrill is Gone,’” said Comauex.



Photo by Sam Hearnes

Allen “Squirrel” Ware starting the celebration off right



Photo by Sam Hearnes

Harun Taylor kicking of the Juneteeth celebration



Photo by Sam Hearnes

Rico Rogers displaying his many talents

### Save Our Water

Learn easy ways to save water during California’s drought at:

[SaveOurWater.com](http://SaveOurWater.com)





Photo by Sam Hearnes

Greg Dixon on the drums, keeping the show going



Photo by Sam Hearnes

Joe Mason rocking the guitar with Paul Comauex



Photo by Sam Hearnes

J. Jones and M. Reed performing their hit song



Photo by Sam Hearnes

James Benson handling the drums



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## Barrios Unidos Visits Newsroom



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## Kamau Bell Brings Laughter to The Q

Comedian W. Kamau Bell used laughter to shine the light on rehabilitation during a visit inside San Quentin State Prison.

Bell recently performed before sold-out crowds at the Marsh Berkeley Arts Center. This is according to Beth Spotswood in a *San Francisco Chronicle* article called, *Kamau Bell Survived TV and is Back in Town*.

In April, Bell came into The Q for four days in a row as host

of a new show called *United Shades of America*, which should air next year on *CNN*. The series will display Bell exploring how various groups and subcultures live, like whalers in Alaska, cops walking the beat in Camden, N.J., and life in San Quentin.

He talked with inmates on the yard and heard their stories, including Terry Alexander, who

See Kamau on Page 4



Photo by Raphael Casale

Tai Nguyen and An Dao walk to support breast cancer research

## Avon Raises Money For Breast Cancer

San Quentin State Prison was a place for fundraising and community building during the July 11-12 weekend—all in pursuit of finding a cure for a dreaded disease.

"This isn't about us getting money," said inmate Rodney Capell, emcee for the seventh Avon 39 Walk Against Breast

Cancer, sponsored by San Quentin CARES. "It's about taking an interest in what's happening in our community."

"Being a part of The Walk, The Amala Foundation, Shakespeare, Artistic Ensemble and The Drama Team helps make me

See AVON on Page 11

## Burton Adult School Graduates Are Honored

By Juan Haines  
Managing Editor

After being a drug addict, doing time in prison, then giving a valedictory speech, Rodney Goldson declared that getting a GED diploma made him feel like he was "standing on top of the world."

"I found myself having self-worth as I achieved each educational goal," Goldson told an audience of about 300 guests. "It helped me overcome low self-esteem. I hope that my achievement today would inspire others to work toward their education."

The graduates' family members were able to witness San Quentin State Prison Robert E. Burton Adult School's annual graduation ceremony on July 24. Also in attendance were prison administrators, volunteer literacy educators, academic and vocational teachers and fellow inmates. The event was held in the prison's Protestant Chapel.

"I am standing in one of the most forward-thinking prisons in the country," said the keynote speaker, San Francisco Sheriff Ross Mirkarimi.

Mirkarimi stressed to the audience the importance of "educating those who are in our custody without losing sight of the power of redemption."

"I'm a big believer that the criminal justice system must



Photo by Leroy Lucas

Valedictorian: Rodney Goldson shows his diploma

be a more positive influence on those in custody," Mirkarimi said, "but particularly on the children of those incarcerated so that there is a greater connection between families. If we're concerned about the children of the incarcerated, we have to do more to mitigate the negative impact of the separation."

There were 38 General Education Development (GED) graduates and 13 Career Technical Education certificates earned in Construction Technology. Four graduates from Coastline Community College earned Associate in Arts degrees. Two gradu-

See Students on Page 10

## Alliance Encourages Prisoners To 'Change the Narrative'

By Rahsaan Thomas  
Sports Editor

Alliance for Change held a banquet honoring community volunteers and reaffirming its goal to change the narrative. The event featured guest speakers Niaz Kasravi, PhD, and co-founder Nathaniel "Shahid" Rouse.

Alliance for Change is a Social Justice group.

"We are bridging worlds and learning from each other," said Kim Richman, PhD, Alliance president. "It's time to change the narratives; it can't wait any longer."

"We need your voices and determination. I want to thank you and honor you. Keep up the work," said Kasravi.

She is deputy director of the Anti Recidivism Coalition and the lead researcher and associate for Domestic Human Rights Program of Amnesty International USA. Like Richman, her Ph.D. is in criminology. Kasravi is a former NAACP criminal



Photo by Harold Meeks

Human Rights Activist Niaz Kasravi, Ph.D.

justice director.

"Every department has a co-leader who is inside and outside (community volunteers). We don't just talk it; we live it. We help guys not to recidivate and be community leaders," said

Karen Lovaas, a board member on the education team.

"We teach people the different theories of justice and how to achieve it in a pro-social man-

See Alliance on Page 9



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SQNews strives to report on forward thinking approaches to criminal justice policies that support positive changes in prisoner's behavior, particularly through rehabilitative efforts.

UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, BERKELEY  
Graduate School of Journalism

Prisoners United in the Craft of Journalism  
In collaboration with students from the

Journalism Guild  
of SAN QUENTIN

We Want To Hear From You!

The San Quentin News encourages inmates, free staff, custody staff, volunteers and others outside the institution to submit articles. All submissions become property of the San Quentin News. Please use the following criteria when submitting:

- Limit your articles to no more than 350 words.
- Know that articles will be edited for content and length.
- The newspaper is not a medium to file grievances. (For that, use the prison appeals process.) We encourage submitting articles that are newsworthy and encompass issues that will have an impact on the prison populace.
- Please do not use offensive language in your submissions.
- Poems and art work (cartoons and drawings) are welcomed.
- Letters to the editor should be short and to the point.

Send Submissions to:

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Education Dept. / SQ News  
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San Quentin, CA 94964

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Officer McGhee Envisions Taking Trips After Retirement

By Tommy Winfrey  
Art Editor

Officer Eugene McGhee Jr., 55, retired after almost 14 years in the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation on Friday, July 31, 2015. Prior to retiring from CDCR, McGhee retired from the United States Army, where he had served on active and reserve duty for 34 years.

McGhee admitted retirement was a tough decision but he has a good reason. "I have an 8-year-old son that I adopted at birth, and I want to spend time with him. I want to be a good father," he said.

He added that he had planned to work until 2017, but decided that his son was old enough to travel with him and that was a priority for him.



Officer Eugene McGhee Jr., retired Iraq and Gulf war veteran

During his time in the Army McGhee traveled around the world, sometimes in some harsh places. He served in both the Iraq War and the Gulf War.

McGhee joined the Army at the age of 19 and eventually held the rank of E9, Quartermaster. During his time in the Army he was a drill instructor and during the Iraq War he served as a sergeant major in the infantry.

"There is a big difference between the military and CDCR," McGhee explained. "The structure in the military is black and white; you know if you are doing something wrong or right. In CDCR, there exists a lot of gray areas, and even when you navigate the right way you have to be careful of perceptions."

McGhee said what he will miss most is, "Talking to the inmates."

He admitted that he has been inspired by a lot of the inmates' faith. Being a religious man, McGhee always was appreciative when he had the chance to spread the word of his faith and let the men know there is always hope.

McGhee had a lot of opportunity to do just that in his assignment as a transportation officer. He routinely transported sick and dying men to the hospital and would talk to them during these trips. After getting to know some of the prisoners, they would tell him their stories.

"If the doctor tells them something that they should be doing, to take care of themselves and I see them on the yard ignoring that advice, I'm going to say something to them," McGhee said.

When asked why he chose to be so proactive in the men's lives, he said, "I didn't have any perception of inmates before I started working for CDCR, and from day one I treated people like people." He continued, "Everybody has done something wrong in their lives. I don't wish prison on anyone, but I'm a true believer in that God places people where he/she can mold them so that when they learn they can then turn around and help other people."

He said his time on the San Quentin transportation team was very rewarding. "I have known my partner, Villa Gomez, "The Perfect Hair," for a while. He is a vet like me, and we are so much alike that we worked well together. He always knew what I was doing, and I always knew what he was doing."

McGhee said he had fun on the job, but for sure won't be coming back as part time worker annuitant. "I know that God has something else for me to do, and when God says 'move,' I must comply, even if I don't want to."

He said he is going to take a break for a while to see where he's going from here. During that break he will travel. "I'm planning on taking trips to the Philippines, Hawaii, Spain, Germany and many other places."

Officer McGhee says he is going to enjoy life with his son from here on out.

—Richard Richardson  
contributed to this article

JPay Offers New Computerized Tablet

By Isaiah Thompson-Bonilla  
Journalism Guild Writer

The prison money-transferring service JPay is offering a new computerized tablet to some inmates, potentially giving them access to such things as email.

Lorenzo Ligato, reporting for *The Huffington Post* in a story titled "Our Connected Future," highlighted the Florida-based telecommunications company's launch of the JP5 mini tablet that will connect prison inmates to the outside world.

The tablet is a 4.3-inch device that has the capability of sending emails, taking photos and, for facilities that are transitioning to wireless networks, there is WiFi connection capacity. In addition to the launch of the tablet, JPay has tentatively announced that in August it in-



tends to introduce an app store. If successful, inmates would then be able to download games and educational apps.

The tablets are made of clear plastic to eliminate smuggling and housing weapons. Also, there are special manufacturing modification mechanisms that ensure that no other systems can be installed. The program will not allow prisoners to use their devices without tight scrutiny. The content of their messages will be tightly vetted before being given the green light to send out beyond prison walls.

The cost of JP5 mini will fall squarely on the shoulders of the inmates and their families. JPay will be offering the tablet for \$70.

The company contends that a key component to rehabilitation is that the incarcerated establish and maintain family ties. The JP5 mini will assist in that effort, says Ryan Shapiro, CEO of JPay. "This tablet, combined with our current reach, has the capacity to truly rehabilitate offenders on a massive scale."

A study by the nonprofit Vera Institute showed that incarcerated men and women who maintained strong family ties and build supportive relationships fare better once released than those who do not.

*The Huffington Post* reported that Shapiro told Yahoo Tech that he believes that the tablets will replace the prison phone system completely.



# Class Action Lawsuit Filed to End Isolation

By **Juan Haines**  
Managing Editor

“On a regular basis, prisoners can be heard screaming and yelling in fits,” while “security gates and cell doors constantly slam open and close,” according to court papers filed in a federal District Court in Northern California by six men on Death Row.

The class action lawsuit was filed on behalf of all prisoners housed inside the Adjustment Center at San Quentin State Prison, who spend 21 to 24 hours per day behind the solid steel doors of cells that measure approximately six feet wide and nine feet long.

No inmates are held in cells for hours a day, because they’re entitled to 10 hours a week in the prison exercise yard, the CDCR press office reports.

“Some days ... all you can hear all day long is screaming, hollering, and banging from prisoners who can no longer endure the isolation,” according to the June 17 lawsuit. “High ceilings and the enclosed steel cells in the unit amplify this noise. The cacophony continues throughout the day and night.”

The lawsuit claims prisoners remain in the Adjustment Center with no exposure to natural light, no access to religious services, and devoid of recreational, vocational and educational programming. They are denied contact visits and regular telephone calls.

Prisoners subjected to extreme isolation suffer from a host of psychological disorders, including anxiety and nervousness, headaches, lethargy and chronic tiredness, trouble sleeping, obsessive ruminations and oversensitivity to stimuli as a result of isolation, the lawsuit claims.

The lawsuit further alleges that prison officials persistently and intentionally deny these men the normal human contact and socialization necessary for a person’s mental and physical well-being.

All men sentenced to death in California must begin their incarceration in the Adjustment Center. A few remain there indefinitely; some return for lengthy and indefinite stays.

The plaintiffs are:

Bobby Lopez is a 50-year-old prisoner. He has been housed in the Adjustment Center for 17 years. Lopez has been on Death Row since November 1997.

Marco Topete is a 42-year-old prisoner. He has been housed in the Adjustment Center for three years. Topete has been on Death Row since February 2012.

John Myles is a 43-year-old prisoner. He has been housed in the Adjustment Center for

11 years. Myles has been on Death Row since May 2001.

Ricardo Roldan is a 44-year-old prisoner. He has been housed in the Adjustment Center for eight years. Roldan has been on Death Row since January 1993.

John Gonzales is a 38-year-old prisoner. He has been housed in the Adjustment Center for four years. Gonzales has been on Death Row since December 1998.

Ronaldo Medrano Ayala is a 65-year-old prisoner. He has been housed in the Adjustment Center for 26 years. Ayala has been on Death Row since February 1989.

A new security check system, Guard One, adds to the noise in the Adjustment Center. It is designed to account for correctional officers’ suicide checks. The system uses a hand-held wand and a sensor affixed to cell doors that must connect to register that a suicide check was conducted.

Every 30 minutes, correctional officers must visually check each prisoner in the Adjustment Center and then touch the end of the wand to the sensor as confirmation of a suicide check. In practice, the lawsuit claims, guards slam the wand against the sensor creating a loud bang against the cell door.

Some plaintiffs say they wake up whenever the Guard One check is conducted, resulting in sleep for 30-minute increments

at best.

Topete says he is awakened every time the Guard One check is performed and experiences exhaustion daily as a result of constant sleep interruption.

Ayala says the sleep deprivation makes him agitated and immediately angry at any little thing.

Lopez says he feels drained of energy all the time.

With the exception of men in special health care or mental health care management programs, the men of Death Row are housed in one of three units at San Quentin: Northern Segregation, East Block and the Adjustment Center

Condemned prisoners are classified as Grade A or Grade B, based on the vague standard of whether they present a “high risk” of violence or escape or are “difficult management cases,” according to the lawsuit.

Grade A classified prisoners can work, get an advanced education, call their families every day, touch their loved ones during 2 ½-hour visits, receive quarterly packages and special purchase orders, order additional food and recreation items from the commissary, create art, recreate with equipment, access the vast San Quentin Library and worship in group settings while on Death Row.

Prisoners classified as Grade B are denied all possibilities for work, enrichment and so-

cialization. They receive only minimal recreation; limited, non-contact visiting; access to a book cart; and only an annual package and special order, the means by which they can receive new clothes, a radio or a television.

All the prisoners in the Adjustment Center are Grade B.

The lawsuit alleges that there is no meaningful review of plaintiffs’ Grade B classification and there is no reasonable means of earning their way into Grade A.

Plaintiffs live with the constant knowledge that, despite their compliance with rules, prison officials have almost complete and unchecked control over their release from the Adjustment Center, the lawsuit states.

As of April, there were 93 condemned men housed in the Adjustment Center.

Nearly 78 percent of the condemned population has been on Death Row for a decade or more.

Between 1976, when the national death penalty moratorium was lifted, and 2006 when it was put back in place, California executed 13 men. California has not executed a condemned prisoner since 2006. The average time they spent on Death Row was 17.5 years.

It takes approximately 25 years to exhaust death penalty appeals.

## 3 Newsletters From Sheriff Ross Mirkarimi

By **Chung Kao**  
Staff Writer

The San Francisco Sheriff’s Department’s Five Keys Charter High School was named a finalist for the prestigious Innovations in American Government Award by Harvard University’s John F. Kennedy School of Government.

“This is a huge honor made possible by our visionary and hardworking staff, who are pushing the envelope to meaningfully lower recidivism,” Sheriff Ross Mirkarimi wrote

in his June newsletter.

“Historically, within the U.S. prison and jail systems, opportunities prove few in providing ex-offenders hope through a working skill. However, those times are changing, as evidenced by the durable reach of the SFSD’s Five Keys Charter High School whose common sense approach to improving public safety is by not letting incarcerated minds decay,” he added.

Founded in 2003, Five Keys is the first public charter high school in the U.S. to operate

in an adult detention facility. Its impact has reached beyond the jail walls to 21 community centers throughout San Francisco and 13 in Los Angeles, serving over 9,000 students annually, the sheriff noted.

The newsletter reports that the recidivism rate for inmates who go through the Five Keys program is 28 percent based on re-arrest for a new felony charge — 33 percent lower than the statewide recidivism rate for fiscal year 2008-2009.

“Providing inmates with an education helps create safer communities, reduces tax

dollars spent on incarceration and affords the incarcerated with the skills they’ll need to rejoin communities and their families upon release,” the sheriff wrote.

Five Keys won the 2015 Pioneer Institute Better Government Competition and was awarded the Hart Vision Award for Charter School of the Year (Northern California) in 2014. The San Francisco Sheriff’s Department’s Resolve to Stop the Violence Program won the Innovations in American Government Award in 2004.



Ross Mirkarimi

San Francisco Sheriff Ross Mirkarimi has announced his plans to outfit the deputy sheriffs in the county jail system with body cameras.

“There is no other jail system in California with body cameras,” Mirkarimi said. “I believe this will be the wave in the future.”

Thirty body cameras will be worn by deputy sheriffs

on all shifts at San Francisco County Jail #4, announced the sheriff. The devices will record the interactions between deputy sheriffs and inmates to ensure the safety of inmates and to protect deputies against unfounded allegations.

The sheriff said the pilot program is the first of its kind in the state. He said the de-

partment has assumed a leadership role in creating policies and protocols concerning the use of the devices, such as rules governing application and use, data storage, privacy rights, ramifications for failure to adhere, personnel training and public records requests.

Mirkarimi said other efforts are also necessary to ad-

dress abuse of power.

“People under our lock and key deserve respect and humane treatment or else we risk fueling the criminality we strive to abate,” Mirkarimi said. “I don’t believe body cameras alone satisfy the greater call unless they are accompanied with modernized training, policy reforms that dissuade misconduct and

the political will to correct abuse of power.”

Mirkarimi pieced together funds for the body camera pilot program from the sheriff’s department’s budget after requesting funds from the city budget in 2013 and 2014 to no avail.

The pilot program will launch this summer, the sheriff said.

## Jane Kim Looks for ‘Smarter Ways’ to Run County Jails

San Francisco sheriff’s officials say they are continuing to seek out and implement innovative ways to manage the county jail system.

The efforts are necessary in the wake of the state-wide Realignment, which confines many low-level felons in county jails instead of prison, and

the nation-wide public sentiment against police brutality.

“We are looking for smarter ways to run our county jails. I’m here hopefully to learn more about the issues of incarceration from you guys,” said county Supervisor Jane Kim at a symposium inside San Quentin’s walls on June 26.

Kim, a civil rights attorney, is the first Korean-American elected to the San Francisco Board of Supervisors.

The San Francisco Sheriff’s Department holds several records and honors ways it manages the county jails, Sheriff Ross Mirkarimi said.

“It is well established that

inmates who have the opportunity to learn both academics and skills while incarcerated have more opportunities when they leave,” said Mirkarimi in his June newsletter. “Jail is punishment, removal from society, but it can also be a time of self-improvement and self-reflection.”



Jane Kim



# Lower Yard Music Program Features ‘Spirit of Freedom Rockfest’

By Marcus Henderson  
Journalism Guild Writer

Michael Adams revealed how prison has affected his life when he sang an original song during a July 25 performance on San Quentin State Prison’s Lower Yard.

“I wrote that song when I was in the hole, and everybody I trusted had left me,” Adams said. “I prayed to God to change my focus.”

Adams said he was able to perform the song after fellow inmate Robert Jerrett wrote the music for it.

The San Quentin Music Performance Program put on its second Summer Series Concert with the Spirit of Freedom Rockfest.

“I see how music inspires creativity and imagination; it increases confidence and improves self-esteem,” said Raphaelé Casale, the staff sponsor. “At the same time, it demands each artist show determination, discipline and professionalism in order to reach a proficient level of musicianship and to perform.”

The yard shows are scheduled to highlight four musical genres -- rhythm and blues, rock, jazz and hip-hop -- over the course of the summer months, according to event coordinator Dwight Krizman.

The headliner rock group Continuum consists of bass and bandleader Darryl Farris, drummer Joe Thuston, guitarists Joe Mason and Robert Jerrett and lead singer Micheal Adams.

Continuum performed original songs *Who Told You* and *Set Me on Fire* in front of a crowd of about 50 inmates seated in front of a make-shift stage.

Jarrett performed *Looking Out the Window*; later Farris sang some cover songs. When asked about a Black guy leading a rock band, Farris replied, “We don’t see color; we see music.”

Quentin Bleu took the stage and preformed nine original songs having an Eagles/Carlos Santana sound.

The crowd jumped to its feet screaming when Quentin Bleu preformed *You Should Be With Me* and *Longtime Up the River*.

*Quentin Bleu* members are lead singer Richie Morris, guitarist Alan Brown, bass player Isiah “Zeke” Daniels and drummer Krizman.

“Some songs I write are there before I get there; I just tap into it. I appreciate my band members. We just want to put some good vibes in the air,” said Morris.

Daniels added, “It was a lovely day. Only thing missing was my wife.”

The event also showcased some newcomers.

J. “Killa Clown” Medvin and Jose “El Guerero” De Cristo performed a Christian rap, *You Should Give God a Try*, off of slain rapper Tupac Shakur’s *Hail Mary* instrumental. De Cristo had heads bobbing when he did his verse in Spanish.

“I wanted the Spanish people in S.Q. to hear the messenger of God. Jesus truly changes lives,”



Photo by Sam Hearnes

Richie Morris and the *Quentin Bleu* perform “You Should Be With Me” and “Longtime Up the River” at the Summer Series program on the Lower Yard

said De Cristo.

Medvin added, “We were inspired to get up there when we saw one of the other shows. We talk to the right people, and they gave us a chance to debut.”

Bill Hazleton featuring Jans Brazwell also made their debut performing some rock and blues and oldies.

“We are in an infant stage. We are glad to get stuff out there. My partner is younger, but he is a good guitarist and knows all the old stuff,” said Hazleton.

Krizman added, “The music program gives you a chance to create. It’s very physical, and we have really good musicians and writers here. We just want to give back to our fellow inmates who are willing to listen.”



Photo by Sam Hearnes

Drummer Joe Thuston, guitarist Joe Mason and lead singer Michael Adams entertain the audience

## Kamau Bell Shines Light on Rehabilitation

Continued from Page 1

has been incarcerated more than 40 years on a seven-years-to-life sentence. Bell asked Alexander if his conduct was good. He answered, “Not during the first half. Back then, I was in survival mode.”

Bell joined into many activities inmates are involved in during his visit, such as playing pinochle, attending the Guiding Rage Into Power self-help group meeting, watching a baseball game and he even ate prison food. The chow hall served chili mac, carrots, green beans, Jello and cornbread that evening.

“The food isn’t that bad; it’s just bland,” said Bell.

Bell is well established as a “sociopolitical comedian and community activist,” according to *Wikipedia*.

He once stood on a New York City street and stopped random Black people to ask them if there was anything that they wanted to say to a White man. Bell recruited a White man just for venting purposes and brought him along for the occasion. It was all part of a comedy skit for the FX TV show *Totally Biased with W. Kamau Bell*, that ran for two seasons.

“I have led my career in a



Photo by Jenna Lynn Sasso

CNN’s *United Shades of America* film crew with the San Quentin News staff

very untraditional fashion,” said Bell. “In 2007 I wrote a one-man show called the *W. Kamau Belle Show*, *Ending Racism in About an Hour*. It didn’t sell any copies, but it led to a TV show called *Totally Bias* ....it was really rewarding

for me; it put me in places I never thought I’d be.”

Bell co-hosts the podcast *The Field Negro Guide to Arts Culture* with Vernon Reid (*Living Colour* guitarist), writes the blog *Kamau’s Komedy Korner* for the *San Fran-*

*cisco Weekly* and is on the Applied Research Center board, according to *Wikipedia*.

Bell is the founding member of *Laughter Against the Machine*, a comedy collective, has been in “WTF with Marc Maron, Citizen Radio and is

a regular on *Current TV The War Room* with Jennifer Granholm.

Bell was named one of the Top 10 Best Comedy Albums of 2010 by iTunes and *Punchline Magazine* for *Face Full of Flour*.

He was San Francisco’s best comedian in 2012, according to *S.F. Weekly*, the *S.F. Bay Guardian* and *7x7 Magazine*.

Bell was also named the American Civil Liberties Union celebrity ambassador on racial justice in 2013.

He believes in doing comedy that he can stand behind.

“I’ve turn down a lot of gigs,” said Bell. However, “If they offered me the role in *Mission Impossible 19*, I’ll take it. I have two kids. If they need a Denzel, I’ll take it.”

What Bell wouldn’t take is a movie “that Black people were negatively portrayed. I don’t even go down those roads. A lot of avenues aren’t open to me. I don’t act; I don’t audition. I am trying to find out who I am. I only do things where I can be myself.”

Bell is launching a new podcast called *Denzel Washington Is The Greatest Actor of All Time Period* along with comedian Kevin Avery, according to Spotswood’s blog.

—Rahsaan Thomas



# Death Penalty in ‘Legal Limbo’ Over Use of Lethal Injection

By Charles David Henry  
Journalism Guild Writer

Even though the state’s death penalty is in “legal limbo” over the use of a three-drug lethal injection procedure, Gov. Jerry Brown has ordered the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation to convert existing cells at San Quentin State Prison to create room for condemned inmates, according to a Marin Independent Journal (IJ) editorial.

According to a short editorial released in early June, \$3.2 million is the price tag the state must pay to expand Death Row at the prison. The governor wants to convert existing cells at the institution to

create 97 more for its growing condemned death row inmate population. He called this space crunch “critical.”

In 2010, Brown scrapped the plan of building a new complex. But, according to the Marin IJ, “San Quentin estimates that Death Row becomes the address for about 20 new inmates every year ... Even with those inmates who die behind bars or those who successfully overturn their sentences, the state has to find cells to house about 13 more inmates every year.”

Nearly 70 percent of the residents in Marin want to do away with Death Row. However, statewide voters, by a narrow margin of 52 percent, rejected the 2012 proposition that would

have abolished the death penalty in California.

Backers of Proposition 34 argued with the time and legal cost of inmates’ appeals of execution rulings. Most condemned inmates wind up dying behind bars without their sentences being carried out. There hasn’t been an execution at the prison since 2006. It is less costly to punish them with life sentences than condemning an individual to death, the Marin IJ adds.

Moving condemned inmates to other correctional facilities might be significantly less expensive than housing them at San Quentin, but that was not in the governor’s plans.

In the final analysis, the fact



San Quentin’s lethal injection chair

that San Quentin reduced its population by 25 percent, the state has the space to expand. However, until Brown’s legal

and political Death Row quandary gets resolved, his current proposal makes sense, the *Marin IJ* concludes.

# PREA Under Scrutiny by Advocates and Legislators

By Isaiah Thompson-Bonilla  
Journalism Guild Writer

The Prison Rape Elimination Act (PREA), passed by Congress 12 years ago, has come under scrutiny by advocates, legislators and some governors, says Deirdre Bannon, reporting for *The Crime Report*.

The advocacy communities have found themselves at odds with each other over some of the amendments to the law. Some advocates argue that the existing law will be strengthened by the amendments, while others say that the amendments will only deprive the law of its vital contents.

Sen. John Cornyn, R-Texas, spearheaded one of the controversial amendments, as he moved to have the financial penalties for non-compliant states reduced. The provision that linked funding to state programs under the 1984 Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) would be affected and place the existing programs under the Prison Rape Elimination Act (PREA) guidelines.

Advocates against the amendment believe that enacting these

new guidelines under PREA will weaken the current law. Another group of stakeholders and advocates argues the amendment will strengthen the existing law as it keeps in place the penalties for noncompliance.

The stakeholders and advocates, with approximately 20 members, are led by Elizabeth Pyke of the National Criminal Justice Association and Chris Daley of Justice Detention International. Pyke emphasizes that the amendment will strengthen the requirements for annual reports state by state. What this does is make more information public and removes the option for states to file a pledge in 2018 to comply, when all states will be required to be in compliance with PREA.

The stakeholders see this amendment as an immediate necessary implementation to fully cover and document prison rape. “For organizations like ours, who are continually documenting incidents of prison rape, there is a great sense of urgency. We want PREA implemented yesterday,” Daley told *The Crime Report*.

While there is a compromise being discussed by the two sides, finding a legislative sponsor from the Senate Judiciary Committee has been a challenge not yet overcome.

In the meantime, Pyke and Daley are working in collaboration with Cornyn’s office to sponsor their own compromise to the amendment and then present it to the Judiciary Committee,

the report disclosed.

The report also mentioned other components of interest concerning the need for PREA, such as the 5 percent penalty that will penalize a state 5 percent of its federal funding for corrections programs if they are in non-compliance. Others include audit data, which is missing, and the threat of lawsuits.

Although there have been sev-

eral governors who have rejected PREA standards, correctional officials from those states have been working to come into compliance.

Daley said, “There is a sexual assault crisis in detention facilities around the country, and there is an urgent need to end such abuses. PREA represents the best tools we’ve ever had to end this abuse.”

## GOT CONDOMS?

**NOTICE OF PRISONER PROTECTION FOR FAMILY AND COMMUNITY HEALTH ACT (Pen. Code § 6500)**

State law requires CDCR make condoms available in all state prisons. Per Operational Procedure #0-1109, general population and reception center inmates at San Quentin State Prison now has access to condom dispensers in the following locations: entrances to the Library, Gym, Central Health Services Building, Education Building, Alpine section, and Badger section; South Block stairwell third tier landing; Upper Yard restroom; Lower Yard stairway; and 13 Wall Pedestrian Gate.

Inmates may possess up to three condoms at any given time. Though the law makes condoms available for the protection of prisoners and the community, sexual activities while incarcerated are illegal and subject to disciplinary action and/or criminal prosecution.

—Chung Kao

# U.S. Supreme Court Justice Criticizes Solitary Confinement

*‘Even for prisoners sentenced to death, solitary confinement bears ‘a further terror and a peculiar mark of infamy’*

By Salvador Solorio  
Journalism Guild Writer

Prisons abuse and overuse solitary confinement across the country, U.S. Supreme Court Justice Anthony M. Kennedy says.

It may be time to limit the use of long-term solitary confinement in prisons, according to Kennedy.

“Years on end of near-total isolation exacts a terrible price,” Kennedy wrote. He cited 19<sup>th</sup> century Supreme Court opinions that recognized “even for prisoners sentenced to death, solitary confinement bears ‘a further terror and a peculiar mark of infamy.’”

“In a case that presented the issue, the judiciary may be required to determine whether workable alternative systems for long-term confinement ex-

ist, and, if so, whether a correctional system should be required to adopt them,” Kennedy continued.

“It’s a remarkable statement,” ACLU National Prison Project attorney Amy Fetting told the *Los Angeles Times* in June. She said Kennedy’s comments came as a welcome surprise. “The justice is sending a strong signal he is deeply concerned about the overuse and abuse of solitary confinement.”

In cases involving crime and punishment, Kennedy is usually conservative, but he also has expressed concern over prison policies that he deems unnecessarily harsh, such as life terms for juveniles and long mandatory prison terms for nonviolent drug crimes, *The Times* reported. Four years ago he condemned California’s prison overcrowding and said it result-

ed in unconstitutionally cruel conditions.

The case of Hector Ayala was before the court when Kennedy joined a 5-4 decision rejecting Ayala’s bid for a new trial. Ayala committed his crime 30 years ago. Ayala has been on Death Row since his conviction. California courts upheld his conviction, but the 9<sup>th</sup> Circuit Court of Appeals overturned the conviction and death sentence. The appeals court cited the trial judge’s decision allowing removal of all Black and Latinos considered for jury. The Supreme Court reversed the appeals court decision and restored the conviction and sentence.

Kennedy was troubled to learn that Ayala had been kept in solitary confinement. Kennedy wrote, he has “been held for all or most of the past 20 years or more in a windowless cell

no larger than a typical parking spot for 23 hours a day.”

Kennedy criticized the widespread use of solitary confinement, which affects at least 25,000 inmates in the United States. The court cited the 1890 Medley case, which acknowledged that solitary confinement can lead to madness and suicide. Modern studies by psychologists have noted the effects of isolation can result in anxiety, panic, withdrawal, hallucinations and self-mutilations.

“Kennedy all but urged the legal community to bring a solitary-confinement case before the Supreme Court as soon as



Pelican Bay’s SHU

possible,” *The Atlantic Monthly* reported in June.



# Barrios Unidos Sheds Light on Incarceration

**By Arnulfo T. Garcia**  
**Editor-in-Chief**

The founder and executive director of Barrios Unido, Daniel “Nane” Alejandre, came to San Quentin on July 19 to discuss his commitment to the community, prison and county jail reform, and the California criminal justice system.

Alejandre’s life story is no different from that than many men of color who grew up in low-income communities.

He said that he struggled as a youth; at age 13, he stabbed a young man, and at 17 he shot someone. He later became addicted to heroin and used drugs while serving in the Army in Vietnam. Heroin also affected other family members. He suffered from addiction until 1986 at age 37.

His life turned around after he was exposed to the words of peace and human rights from Cesar Chavez while harvesting melons.

“In 1977, I had 11 family members in prison,” Alejandre said. “Over the years, 35 members of my family went to prison, and today, 20 of them are still in prison, including my grandson.”

“Prisons are not the answer,” Alejandre said. He said he wants to break the cycle of perpetual incarceration.

“We had a prison cell on display for an art exhibit by inmates from Pelican Bay Prison Security Housing Unit that received much attention,” Alejandre said. “In constructing an interactive prison cell, we hope to bring insight and awareness of the realities of incarceration. It will provide an opportunity for individuals to step into the environment and get a sense of what it’s like to be incarcerated.”



Daniel “Nane” Alejandre

Barrio Unidos plans to take the prison model to schools, universities, courthouses and other educational events.

Barrios Unidos, formed in 1977, is a multi-cultural non-profit organization based in Santa Cruz. Its aim is to stop acts of youth violence by promoting self-worth and value. The organization addresses conflict resolution in the community through education and awareness as techniques to unite people.

“We hope to encourage people to support alternatives to incarceration policy and legislation,” Alejandre said. “It’s a major undertaking, I know, but I’m pushing to rebuild my community. There are so many things wrong in our community today. I travel all over the world to promote the work of Barrios Unidos.”

Alejandre has been going into jails and prisons like Tracy, Vacaville, Soledad and Salinas Valley “to educate those who think that they are forgotten.”

“When I go into those prisons, I wear Pachuco clothes, like Stacy Adams shoes and

Pendleton shirts, so that those who still struggle can relate to me,” Alejandre said.

Once while walking out of Soledad, a captain told him, “I don’t understand why those guys listen to you, but they won’t listen to me.”

Alejandre believes safer and stronger communities can happen only through leaders who will face today’s challenges, such as gang activities and violence.

“Advocates and leaders of these troubled communities must build coalitions to overcome these acts of disruption,” he said.

Alejandre’s cultural, spiritual and non-violent principles come from César Chavez’s fundamental tenets and dedication to social justice and economic equity. He says the voice and words of César Chavez still echo with him today.



Photo by Juan Molina

Former inmate Juan Molina designed a model of a prison trailer at Pelican Bay

“Barrios Unidos is devoted to non-violence,” Alejandre said. “We are connected all over the United States, despite the fact that we are small. We must teach the youth to face their challenges every day.”

“My organization will not accept contributions or any support from beer companies because their values and beliefs destroy the moral fiber of a healthy community,” Alejandre said.

Recently, Danny Glover’s *Profiles Series* and *Stone Soup for the World* featured stories that brought national attention

to the Barrios Unidos program.

“We have established silk-screening businesses that put money back into the community to stop the violence,” Alejandre said. “We are helping the young kids turn their lives around. We are building positive self-esteem and cultural pride through meaningful activities.”

Alejandre is a graduate from University of California, Santa Cruz, with a degree in communication and media.

For information about Barrios Unidos, write to: *Santa Cruz Barrios Unidos, 1817 Soquel Ave., Santa Cruz, CA 95062.*

## 37 Years After the Notorious Jonestown Massacre

**By John C. Eagan**  
**San Quentin News Adviser**

Jackie Speier was catapulted into national prominence when her congressman boss was murdered, and she survived five gunshot wounds in the notorious Jonestown massacre 37 years ago.

As a staffer for *The Associated Press*, I wrote many stories about Speier and Jonestown then and over the years, but I met her face-to-face for the first time on her recent visit to a San Quentin News Forum.

I was able to fill in a gap in her view of how the Jonestown story began. It happened this way:

After a half-dozen years in other *AP* bureaus, I returned to the San Francisco office in 1978.

One of the first people I encountered was Robert “Sammy” Houston, a long-time friend and *AP* colleague who was the bureau’s photo darkroom guy.

“How you doin’, Sammy?” I asked.

“Not very well,” he replied. Since I had seen him last, he had surgery for throat cancer and used a gadget pressed to his neck to talk. But that wasn’t his main concern.

Sammy explained that his son had become involved with the Jim Jones cult based in San

Francisco. The son was a probation officer who also had worked a night job in the Southern Pacific rail yard. At one point, he tried to break ties with the Jones cult.

Then one night the son was run over by a rail car and died. Suspicions linger to this day as to whether it was an accident or murder.

Not long after that, Jones became concerned about investigations into some of his activities and by stories in the *San Francisco Examiner* by Tim Reiterman. Jones fled, moving his flock of about 1,000 men, women and children to a jungle site in Guyana, South America.

The group included the widow of Sammy’s son and Sammy’s two young granddaughters.

“I’ve tried everything to reach them, but they don’t respond to phone calls or letters,” Sammy told me. “I’m worried sick, and I don’t know what to do.”

“Well,” I replied, “if I were you, I’d ask my congressman to look into it.”

“That’s a great idea!” Sammy enthused. “My congressman is Leo Ryan. I know him, and he knows me because he taught my son and daughter in high school.”

So Sammy contacted Congressman Ryan, who put togeth-

er a group to go to Jonestown, Guyana, on a fact-finding mission. Ryan’s group included Sammy’s wife and daughter and several people from the news media, including journalist Reiterman, who is now *AP* news editor in San Francisco.

After visiting Jonestown, Ryan told the residents that anyone who wanted to leave could go with him. A few did, but when Ryan’s group reached the airplane landing strip, some of Jones’ thugs showed up with guns blazing.

Ryan and several of the group died, and several others were wounded, including Speier and Reiterman. The survivors, including Sammy’s wife and daughter, hid in the locked airplane and in the jungle, flying out the next day.

When investigators returned to Jonestown, they found 911 bodies, including Jones and Sammy’s two granddaughters and their mom. The hundreds died from cyanide-laced Kool-Aid. Jones died of a gunshot to his head.

After her recovery, Speier served on the San Mateo County Board of Supervisors, the California Assembly and is now in the U.S. House of Representatives, in the seat once held by Leo Ryan.

## Congresswoman Supports SQ News

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**PERMANENT SELECT COMMITTEE ON INTELLIGENCE**  
SUBCOMMITTEE:  
Foreign Threats  
NSA and Cybersecurity  
Senior Staff

June 25, 2015

William Drummond  
Graduate School of Journalism  
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Dear Bill,


Thank you very much for your invitation to visit San Quentin State Prison last week! It was truly a privilege to have such a personal and intense conversation with twenty inmates during the News Forum. To hear these men—whom many in our society simply write off as hardened criminals who deserve to be locked up for the rest of their lives—take accountability for their crimes, show remorse and strive to be better people was deeply touching. It gave me renewed confidence that programs to rehabilitate inmates can work and are morally the right thing to do.

I applaud you for your contributions to these educational programs. Your work with your UC Berkeley students and the San Quentin News staff are making a difference both for the inmates and for your students who see a part of our legal system that is invisible to most of their peers.

The terms hyper-masculinity and hyper-empathy will always remind me of this remarkable visit. I look forward to coming back.

Thank you for the invaluable work you do.

All the best,

  
Jackie Speier



# Human Rights Watch: Alison Parker Addresses Juvenile Lifer Policies Across America

By Alison Parker  
Director of Human Rights Watch, U.S. Program

*Kid CAT banquet Keynote Speech May 6, 2015, San Quentin.*

Back in 2004, when I first started working on the problem of children being sentenced to life without parole (LWOP), a lot of people told me “no.”

Lawyers in the juvenile death penalty case *Roper v. Simmons* told me not to work on juvenile lifers without parole (JLWOP) – they thought drawing attention to the human rights abuse of sentencing kids to life without parole would make it harder to convince the Supreme Court to end the human rights abuse of the juvenile death penalty.

The other groups that told me “no” were national and state-based statistical experts on prisoners in the United States.

Having lawyers tell me “no” was a problem I could work with. I certainly didn’t want to foul up the chance we had to overturn the juvenile death penalty. I figured I could wait until the Court made its decision. I had already started traveling around the country, meeting with young people serving life without parole sentences, and the research was clearly going to take some time.

The lawyers in the juvenile death penalty case agreed that I should quietly release a report on Colorado in February 2005 because I was the first to interview two dozen young people serving life without parole there, and the state was considering repealing the sentence. One month later the U.S. Supreme Court overturned the juvenile death penalty. Christopher Simmons was moved off death row and resentenced to life without parole. Six months later, I published the first national investigation of children sentenced to life without parole throughout the United

## Kid CAT Speaks!

States.

But that second group of people who had been telling me “no” was more of a roadblock. Although this is slowly changing, in 2004 most states would “lose” the fact that an offender was a child at the time of his or her crime once he was admitted to adult prison.

*“Human Rights Watch will continue to stand by you... to ensure that no child is thrown away, that no child’s very existence and humanity is denied”*

Consequently, publicly available statistics on prison populations often gave the impression that there were no inmates in adult prisons who were children at the time of offenses. In other words, these datasets indicated that the people I wanted to learn more about – people serving juvenile life without parole sentences – did not exist. I knew they did. I fought back. Eventually obtaining evidence that at least 2,500 children were serving life without parole in the United States in 2004 and at the time just a handful –soon to be zero – juveniles were serving the sentence elsewhere in the world.

To this day, I am angered and incredulous about the fact that public officials, to say nothing of the general public, have had

very little access to information about the child offenders, who were tried and sentenced as adults in their states. How can we deny the existence of an entire category of people?

But I’m also amazed by the fact that this category was created in the first place, that lawmakers – with the stroke of a pen – have deliberately gone about erasing and denying an entire phase in human development – childhood. The point is not that children don’t commit crimes, and the argument is not that they should never be held accountable. But the bottom line is that children are different from adults and are able to grow and change. Children who commit crimes should be tried in courts that accommodate their needs, and should be held accountable in settings that punish them but that also help them to realize their human potential.

I’ll never forget what a young man serving LWOP in a super-max prison in Colorado told me. “You can’t just tack a label on a kid and throw him away in a box.” The label that was placed on him – that he was an adult at age 16 – and the box he was thrown in – a prison built on solitary confinement in which the only human contact he had had for several years came when a food tray passed through a slot in the door and a guard’s hand touched his own – were denials of his status as a child and of his humanity.

We don’t let teens under 18 vote. We don’t let them buy cigarettes or beer. Yet we have no problem treating them like adults when they are sent to jail or prison for crime. Dismantling that hubristic act of pretending a child is an adult continues to fuel my work at Human Rights Watch. In the past decade, we



Alison Parker, U.S. Director of Human Rights Watch

have worked on:

The experience of children tried as adults being held in solitary confinement to “protect” them from predators and violence behind bars is common. That so many incarcerated teens are treated this way is a tragedy and a gross violation of human rights. Solitary confinement is a common practice in U.S. jails and prisons, and one that has been the subject of increasing scrutiny in recent years due to its cruelty. An estimated 95,000 people under 18 were held in adult jails and prisons in the United States last year. Many are held in isolation for 22 to 24 hours a day, in some cases for weeks or months at a time. While there, they are often denied exercise, counseling, education and family visits. The practice raises serious human rights concerns. Our investigation on the solitary confinement of youth was published in 2012. And our work has not ended. The special rapporteur on torture has found that there should be a ban on placing juveniles in solitary confinement. And just last year, the New York Civil Liberties Union helped to secure widespread reforms in the state of New York on the use of solitary, including against children.

Florida has very harsh laws allowing for the direct prosecution of kids in adult court. Last year, we published a hard-hitting investigation highlighting how every year, the state of Florida arbitrarily and unfairly prosecutes hundreds of children as adults. Our investigation showed how, if convicted, Florida’s children suffer the lifelong consequences of an adult felony record for what

are often low-level, nonviolent offenses. We have since led a coalition to change this policy giving prosecutors sweeping powers to prosecute kids as adults in Florida, and while our bill to reform direct file did not pass this year, our efforts to reform the juvenile life without parole sentencing in that state did succeed.

And then, here in California, under the extraordinary leadership of Elizabeth Calvin, and with the advice and collaboration of so many groups, both inside prison and outside prison, we have seen SB 9 and SB 260 passed into law – two groundbreaking reforms that have provided children serving life without parole and all people under the age of 18, who were prosecuted as adults, a chance at resentencing and specially tailored parole procedures.

All of this work wouldn’t be possible without the input and efforts of people on the inside, including the men in this room, who have shown through your actions that you also won’t take “no” for an answer – that you believe in your own personal power to shape your life in a way that is meaningful and constructive. Human Rights Watch will continue to stand by you, as will many other groups across the nation, as we work together to ensure that no child is thrown away, that no child’s very existence and humanity is denied, that as a society we can ensure justice for victims of crime and ensure that people accused and convicted of crime are treated fairly and with respect for who they are. That is what human rights law calls for and we should accept nothing less.

## Fewer Juvenile Offenders In Residential Placement

By John Lam  
Journalism Guild Writer

The number of juvenile offenders in residential placement is decreasing, a national survey conducted by the U.S. Department of Justice reveals.

“Findings of the 2011 survey are generally positive -- the population of juvenile offenders in residential placement has declined 42 percent since 1997,” the Census of Juveniles in Residential Placement 2014 report found.

California leads the nation in the number of juveniles in placement, the majority of which had committed first offenses that include criminal homicide, sexual assault, robbery and aggravated assault, the report said.

Detention centers make up 86 percent of “residential placements,” followed by shelter, group homes and camps.

The vast majority of those held in juvenile residential placement are for (delinquency offenses), behaviors that would be criminal law violations for adults.

About three percent of those held in these residential programs are for (status offenders) youths who ran away from home, truancy and for having behavioral problems.

These residential facilities are half-owned by non-profit and for-profit corporations.

“Although there are more private than public facilities nationwide, public facilities hold the majority of juvenile offenders on any given day,” the

report states.

Allocation of juvenile offenders to privately owned residential placement or government residential placement is determined by a court.

The report further determined that those held in private facilities typically stay longer than in public facilities.

“Compared with public facilities, private facilities had larger proportions of youth with less serious offenses, (e.g. simple assault, drug and status offenses).”

Females make up 14 percent of those held in these facilities, Black males make up 40 percent of all males held, 32 percent are White, and 23 percent Hispanic.

In Nebraska, youth placement rates per 100,000 residents were 1,476 for Black, 197 Whites, and 340 Hispanics.

**Kid CAT (Creating Awareness Together) is a group of men that committed their crimes as teens and were sentenced as adults to life terms. The group’s mission is to inspire humanity through education, mentorship and restorative practices. Kid CAT Speaks wants to hear from the men and women juvenile lifers, educators, and policy makers concerning juvenile justice issues and rehabilitation.**



# Using Food to Combat Mass Incarceration

By **Rahsaan Thomas**  
Sports Writer

A new group aims to use food as a key to Restorative Justice in Oakland and to combating mass incarceration.

Restore Oakland plans to start a multipurpose hub that trains food industry workers, has a restaurant, and is a center for Restorative Justice organizing and justice reform.

"We are trying to raise the visibility of Restorative Justice and believe connecting it to a place people come to regularly will help. We know having difficult conversations about harm and accountability is hard, but easier over food. We want to utilize the concept of breaking bread and making amends," said Executive Director Zachary Norris of Restore Oakland.

"We have a choice: continue to expand surveillance, prisons and poverty, or reinvest in people, health and prosperity," said Emily Harris, state field director of the Ella Baker Center.

"As long as we continue to spend on failed approaches that lock people up, we won't be able to afford the vital resources that actually set up youth and families for success—such as



File photo

Executive Director of Restore Oakland, Zachary Norris

schools, job training programs and funds for business innovation at local and regional levels," Harris commented.

The Restore Oakland Center also plans to offer a cooperative food-enterprise, healthcare and childcare programs.

"Community members will get to use the kitchen to create their own worker-owned and worker-run food enterprises," said Harris.

"Through these integrated programs and services, Restore Oakland will create opportunities for Oakland residents, par-

ticularly formerly incarcerated people and their families, to achieve economic stability and self-empowerment through an industry that can offer security and long-term growth.

"Restore Oakland will be a space to help people get out of the system and stay out," said Harris.

"It will be a space for people to get a job and move up the career ladder. It would help build the community's capacity to solve problems and their capacity to build their own enterprises. As a result, East Oakland

will be safer and more prosperous.

"Restore Oakland will also serve as a home for campaigns that redirect resources toward employment opportunities and away from the criminal justice system that burdens low-income families."

Restore Oakland is the brainchild of Ella Baker Center Executive Director Zachary Norris and his spouse, Saru Jayaraman, who is the co-founder and co-director of Restaurant Opportunities Centers (ROC).

The Ella Baker Center is 20 years old and was founded by Van Jones and Diana Frappier, according to Harris.

"We (EBC) currently have a Jobs Not Jails campaign that is fighting to get 50 percent of public safety realignment funds moved away from the sheriff and probation and toward community-based programs and alternatives to incarceration," said Harris.

Jayaraman and Fekkak Mamdouh, the co-founders of ROC-NY, organized the country's first national restaurant workers' convention in Chicago in August 2007, where ROC United was born, Harris said.

"Since its founding after 9/11,

ROC-NY has successfully conducted restaurant workplace justice campaigns, provided job training and placement, opened its own cooperative restaurant, and conducted research and policy work. They consist of 13,000 restaurant workers, 100 high-road employers, thousands of engaged consumers united for raising restaurant industry standards," said Harris.

"EBC and ROC are engaging a wide range of Oakland and East Bay partners in the Restore Oakland project," said Harris. "With regard to restorative justice and peace promotion programming, EBC is working with Community Works West, Restorative Justice for Oakland's Youth, Urban Peace Movement and United Roots.

"These partners are bringing their experience and relationships to bear on the project; for example, Community Works West's Restorative Community Conferencing Program (RCCP) relies on referrals from police, the District Attorney's Office and Juvenile Probation Departments."

Harris thinks Restore Oakland will be open and running by the spring or summer of 2016.

## Prisoner Denied Parole Because of Facebook Picture

By **James R. Abernathy Jr.**  
Journalism Guild Writer

After California prison officials discovered that San Quentin inmate Kimani Randall's Facebook profile was created by a contraband cell phone, the California parole board took away his 2014 parole grant, according to the inmate's official transcript of a subsequent hearing.

"My Facebook profile was created by a friend of mine on the outside who I sent a picture to in 2010 with a cell phone I had at another prison," said Randall in an interview.

In California prisons contraband cell phones are illegal, but rampant.

Statewide, prison officials reported discovering 11,788 cell phones in 2012; 12,151 in 2013; and 2,809 in the first three months of 2014.

"There were 103 cases in 2014 where an offender contacted a victim or family of a victim directly. Of those cases, 74 involved Facebook," the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation (CDCR) press office reports.

"I can understand why prisons don't want inmates to have contraband cell phones, but I can also understand why inmates do this for reasons that have absolutely nothing to do with crime," said journalist Dave Maass in a June 4 story for the Electronic Frontier Foundation (EFF), a San Francisco-based digital civil liberties nonprofit.

"I used the cell phone to communicate with my wife and friends. It made me feel included in the outside world," said Randall.

Since 2011, U.S. prisons have had a special arrangement with Facebook. Prison officials

would send links to inmate profiles that they wanted Facebook to take down, reported Maass.

Facebook made it easy for prisons to censor inmates by creating an "Inmate Account Takedown Request" page that allowed prison officials to file requests, the story said.

"When we began to look into this about a year ago, it seemed that Facebook was taking down inmate pages whenever a prison requested it, no questions asked," said Maass.

"It's more complicated than that," CDCR Public Information Officer Krissi Khokhobashvili said, "Typically, social media accounts are reported to CDCR's Office of Victim and Survivor Rights and Services by a victim or concerned citizen.

Once OVSRS receives a report they contact the prison where the inmate is housed to stop any harassment or threats. After the investigation is complete, we contact the Facebook security team to delete the account."

Facebook representatives told EFF that they only removed inmate profiles that violated the social network's "community standards," which are part of its terms of service.

Emails between Facebook and the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation (CDCR) reveal Facebook's willingness to take down inmate profiles for not following prison regulations or simply being incarcerated, according to Maass.

"As a private company, Facebook can do whatever they want, but when they are collaborating on behalf of a government entity, that's censorship," says Maass.

In 1999, Randall was sentenced to nine years to life for a kidnap-robbery conviction.

According to California law, inmates sentenced to life terms are required to go before a review panel called the Board of Parole Hearings (BPH) for consideration of being released.

As part of BPH requirements, inmates must undergo psychiatric evaluation, demonstrate insight concerning the cause and effects of their crime, show remorse for their victims, provide a record of rehabilitative efforts, a relapse prevention plan, valid employment offers, verified living arrangements and outside support from family, friends and community sources.

In 2010, Randall received a disciplinary write-up for possession of a contraband cell phone.

At his initial BPH hearing in 2012, Randall was denied parole based upon the write-up he received.

"For my misconduct, the parole board recommended that I remain disciplinary-free, write a relapse prevention plan, write some book reports, and then they would reconsider my parole," said Randall.

Randall fulfilled all the requested recommendations and more, he said, which eventually compelled the parole board to grant him a parole date two years later.

Before being released, prison officials decided to conduct a social media search on Randall, which led to the discovery of his Facebook profile and the withdrawal of his parole date.

Randall's parole date withdrawal is currently under review by the BPH for possible reconsideration.

The BPH informed Randall that they will be conducting social media searches on all lifer inmates being considered for parole, according to his official



Photo by Sam Hearn

Kimani Randall

documents.

In South Carolina, a prisoner received 37 years in solitary confinement for just posting on Facebook, reported Maass.

"This is an exaggerated fear of new technology," David Fathi of the American Civil Liberties Union told Maass.

In February 2015, EFF publicly called for Facebook to overhaul how it handles inmate profiles. By March, a new set of practices were implemented by Facebook.

The "Inmate Account Takedown Request" page has been re-titled "Report an Inmate's Account."

Facebook now requires prisons to include links to applicable law or legal authority regarding inmate social media access.

If there is no law barring inmate access to social media, then prisons must provide specific reasons why granting Facebook access to this particular inmate poses a serious

safety risk.

"We have to remember that more than 95 percent of prisoners are getting out. Disabling them from what has become a basic skill in our society is not in anyone's interest," said Fathi.

"By the parole board rescinding my parole date, it made me feel sad, ashamed and helpless for my past and post behavior," said Randall.

"From experiencing this ordeal, I now know that I have the coping skills to maintain a positive attitude when dealing with the challenges of life."

As an example, Randall continues his participation in various self-help groups and educational programs at SQ – programs aimed at reformative criminal thinking, victim awareness and helping at-risk youths – while pursuing his college degree in social and behavioral science.

Randall takes full responsibility for his actions.

"If I never had the cell phone in 2010, the Facebook profile would have never existed," he said.

The BPH told Randall to inform the inmate population that a social media search will be conducted on all lifer inmates being considered for parole, according to his official transcript.

Randall has the following message for the CDCR inmate population:

"For those of you who are indulging in the use of cell phones, especially lifer inmates – if you value your freedom, the risk is not worth using a cell phone or being on social media."

"Our family, friends and community need us in society to help with the prevention of recidivism, and to be positive examples for at-risk youths."



# Alliance for Change Reaffirms Its Goal to 'Change the Narrative'

*Continued from Page 1*

ner. Also, we make sure when people leave prison, they have the resources they need to be successful," said R. Malik Harris, the inside finance and development co-leader.

These resources include a Welcome Home backpack with a starter cell phone, a Clipper card (public transportation pass), toiletries and assistance in obtaining birth certificates and Social Security cards.

Alliance has campus organization at the University of San Francisco and San Francisco State University, according to Nathaniel Whitaker.

The event started with Kasravi. The Iranian native spoke of being surprised to find America's criminal justice system broken. Kasravi said she takes comfort that you can advocate against injustices in American, while exercising dissent in Iran puts your life in danger.

Kasravi took the podium at San Quentin's Protestant Chapel and said, "The Narrative (tough on crime) we knew was the course to self-destruction. It leads to the U.S. having five percent of the world population but 25 percent of prison population with African-Americans bearing the brunt."

"The new coalition wants to focus on non-violent and drug offenses, but they are missing the point... no one is talking about addressing the racial inequality, the dehumanization. I don't think they go far enough to discuss why people ended up here in the first place. People need an opportunity for redemption. Do everything you can to never come back and don't lend credibility to this narrative," she said to the crowd of about 150 inmates and guests.

Rouse spent 30 years incarcerated, but now he's a registered voter and a married man.

"He's a case worker, helping marginalized people find affordable housing and health care. He coordinates Alliance's Bridge Project which offers a support group for newly paroled people in the Bay Area," said Richman, introducing Rouse.

It was Rouse's first time back inside after being one of the founders of the group, along with Erin O'Connor and Harris.

"I am looking at a bunch of men who have made the decision to be better men than who they were and the things around them," said Rouse. "I never expected the crowd I see today, the many faces, the new members. Having a person stop me and say, 'Thank you for starting this group for the changes it has made in my life is huge.'"

A delicious meal was served and cooked by John "Yayah" Parratt, Karl Freelon and Jerry Williams.

Then Thompson-Bonilla spoke.

"Changing the narrative doesn't mean changing the conversation; it means action," said Thompson-Bonilla. "The prob-



Photo by Harold Meeks

Co-founder Nathaniel "Shahid" Rouse

lem with the negative perception is that it stains reality. I'm looking at the men in blue, and I know that it doesn't fit."

Afterward, the men in blue gave awards to Marisol Beaulac (case worker), Berklee Donovan (case worker), Lovaas, Nate Whitaker (SFSU Alliance president), Lily O'Neal (re-integration team), Nick Macker, Nathanie Moore (co-leader of education) and President-founding member Dr. Richman.

"It means so much to be recognized," said Donovan.

"Thank you. This means a lot to all of us, but more than the piece of paper, we appreciate the space that makes this possible," said Moore.

"We have access to the leaders of tomorrow and today. I think we should take advantage of that," said Ricky Gaines, the inside event coordinator.

Also honored was Alliance's chief sponsor. "Mana Jaundoo works an eight-hour day, then comes and sponsors our program. She's not here because of a terrible family tragedy. We are with her in spirits," said Richman.

Raphael Casale was thanked for filling Jaundoo's shoes, which kept the event from be-



Photo by Harold Meeks

The graduating class of Cycle Nine of the Alliance curriculum

ing canceled.

"She's my sister from another mother with a heart of gold and no agenda. Her cause is my cause," said Casale about why she answered Jaundoo's call.

Richman also thanked the administration and Chaplain Mardi Jackson.

The graduates of Alliance for Change, cycle nine, were honored for completing the course on July 13. The Social Justice class is Monday through Thursday for two hours a day. It was the first group for many participants.

Charlie Spence completed the group and became a Pro Team co-leader. He spoke about Alliance's concept of justice.

"Our relationship with justice is how we treat other people, how we feel about ourselves. Not as a single event in time but as a continual journey over the course of your life -- a living and thriving concept in which we are all connected," said Spence.

The other graduates were Alex Bracamonte, Anthony Clark, Anthony Denard, B. Raheem Ballard, Carlos Smith, Chuck Nicholson, Charles A. Ross, Conrai D. Jackson, Dan Kramer, Darryl Schilling, Gary



Photo by Harold Meeks

Guests line up to receive their special dinner

Contreras, Gary Roberson, Jaime Sanchez, James Brady, Jason Samuel, Kenneth Donaghe, Kenneth J. Vernon, Ladelle Jackson, Ralph Brown, Ramon Watkins, Rodney Roberts, Salvador Zapien, Wayne A. Boatwright, and William Barnhard Jr.

Contreras was recently found suitable for parole.

"If I am lucky enough to get out, I want to thank everybody," said Contreras.

Darnell "Moe" Washington's 50th birthday and Donte Smith's birthday two days later were celebrated by Richman who lead the singing of "Happy Birthday."

Inmate Shadeed Wallace-Stepter, executive secretary/of public relations, was acknowledged for graduating from Coastline Community College earlier that day as was Travis Westly.

"Great day...a graduation, a proposal and a banquet...it's as good as a day gets in prison," Westly said.

He earned an AA degree in social and behavioral science from Coastline Community College, plus his girlfriend accepted his proposal.

Harris gave a speech about six degrees of separation.

"We need to expand this out. You may not think that you know people but you do. You are all connected to Obama through six people. Kim Richman knows Joan Peter-Cilia, who knows Condoleezza Rice, who worked for George Bush, who has been hanging out with Bill Clinton, who knows Obama," said Harris.

Alliance member Anouthinh Pangthong closed with this comment: "Each and every one of us has a story, a song. How can the world know about us if we stay quiet?"



Photo by Harold Meeks

R. Malik Harris, Flavio Ruiz and Dr. Kim Richman



# Students Achieve Educational Goals



C.J. Patterson on far left with Todd Williams and his fiancée, Charlotte Walker, in the middle, and two daughters in front

Continued from Page 1

ates earned Associate in Arts degrees from Lassen Community College.

Andrew M. Vance earned his GED and is now attending Paten College classes.

He is currently enrolled in a self-help program called GRIP (Guiding Rage Into Power) and is taking a program to certify him as a domestic violence prevention counselor. He intends to apply to apply for a new hearing before the parole board next year.

Shadeed A. Wallace-Stepter received a Business Certificate from Coastline Community College.

“It’s a payoff to taking these classes,” Wallace-Stepter said. “Now, I know how to develop a business plan, mainly for The Last Mile.”

The Last Mile is a training program at San Quentin that focuses on technology entrepreneurship.

“For my fiancée, [Bambi Williams,] this was a different setting than just the visiting

room,” Wallace-Stepter added. “It showed her another aspect of who I am in this community.”

Tare N. Beltranchuc graduated from the Construction Technology program.

In addition to learning how to install solar and wind energy systems, solar thermal energy systems, refrigeration, fire alarms and heating, ventilation and air conditioning systems using smart technology, the graduates are certified in various fields of construction such as masonry, roofing and pipe-fitting.

“Even though people make mistakes, this type of event reminds us of the humanity of us all,” said Miguel Salazar, who Beltranchuc describes as a father figure to him. “I’m proud of him. It’s good for everyone to spend time in harmony,” Salazar added.

Tare told his family in Mexico, “Me gustaría mandar un caluroso saludo a toda mi familia de Cancún y decirles que los extraño mucho y este Certificado se los dedico a todos ustedes, especialmente a mi hijo Tare Jr

y America.”

“It’s important, once a person earns a degree or makes an accomplishment in here, that there is a tangible and useful purpose on the outside,” said CJ Patterson, who came to see Todd Williams graduate.

Williams earned an Associate of Arts degree in General Studies/Social Science from Lassen College.

“Don’t send the people through these tasks and not make whatever they learn useful,” Patterson said. “People need to be looked at differently when they leave these places. They have to stop being penalized after they leave these places.”

Williams’ fiancée, [Charlotte Walker,] said, “It was exciting. I’m proud of him. This is showing that they want to improve their lives and it is rehabilitation.”

“You have become the ambassadors of this educational system,” Mirkarimi told the graduates. “You are the definition of what this country is doing right toward prison reform.”



Tare N. Beltranchuc, left, and Miguel Salazar



Eusebio Gonzalez



Duane Holt



Shadeed Wallace-Stepter and fiancée Bambi Williams



Ruben Harper and his family

## “The Cuff ‘Em and Feed ‘Em Mentality Has to Change”

By James R. Abernathy Jr.  
Journalism Guild Writer

California’s prison system is working to increase vocational, educational and rehabilitative services to inmates, but it is a long-range and difficult job, two top officials say.

“We have big cultural changes to make as a community. People need to realize that today’s inmate is tomorrow’s neighbor, and it benefits society as a whole when we provide opportunities to offenders,” said Millicent Tidwell, director of the Division of Rehabilitative Programs.

“If all we do is lock inmates up every day and don’t let them out to do anything, they will have the same thoughts over and over again. You’ve got to get them to do something different if we want to expect them to act differently when they leave,” said Rodger Meier, deputy director of the division. “The cuff

‘em and feed ‘em mentality has to change.”

In November 2013, Tidwell was appointed director of DRP to complete the implementation of the Blueprint, a plan adopted in 2012 by the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation. It aims to cut billions in spending, improve prison and parole operations and to meet court-ordered constitutional standards for medical, mental health and dental care needs of inmates.

They reported the division has developed partnerships with the Division of Adult Institutions (DAI) and the Division of Adult Parole Operations (DAPO) to create more programs for inmates and parolees.

“Building these partnerships is making these programs more successful. Due to increased partnerships between DRP and DAPO, our parolee programs went from a 40 percent enrollment to a 93 percent enrollment,” said Meier.

Not everything goes smoothly, Meier noted, saying, “CDCR as a department has changed its focus to rehabilitation, lawmakers have changed their focus to rehabilitation, but when you get down to the actual folks on the line you have many pockets of excellence and you have places that are still resistant.

“It is hard to change something that has been ingrained for decades, if not centuries, to get them to look at this differently.

“Some inmates are resistant, but once they are in the program, they realize how much they actually needed it. One female inmate felt she didn’t need to be in the substance abuse treatment program. She was kicking and screaming. She had a long history of drug abuse but she didn’t feel like she was addicted. After being in the program for about two weeks she said, ‘This is the best thing for

me.’ Many of the other inmates have been waiting for these programs to come and are just happy they are here now because they really wanted to make a change.”

Tidwell and Meier discussed CDCR’s recent shift from being “tough on crime” to being “smart on crime” in an interview with Dana Simas, CDCR public information officer.

Tidwell credits building up CDCR’s Office of Correctional Education as her biggest accomplishment so far.

“We were able to bring in a new superintendent and a deputy superintendent to really build up our correctional education component. It’s something that has been lacking focus for a very long time, so I am really proud of the work they are doing to pull our schools together.”

Tidwell noted, “I’ve received several emails from officers in the field who have said ‘Thank you’ for these programs because



Millicent Tidwell

the yard is quieter, more peaceful and a better place to work without the stress levels they’ve had in the past.”



# Avon Walk Reaps \$1,500 From Prisoners



Photo by Harold Meeks

Volunteers and prisoners walk the first lap in unity to honor breast cancer survivors

*Continued from Page 1*

a better person, which makes the community I'm involved with a better community," Capell said. "When I walk away from this event, I feel empowered."

The two-day event attracted a crowd of about 75 donors, including inmates, community members and prison staff.

The donors gathered around a makeshift stage on the prison's Lower Yard to receive prayers on the first day from Protestant Chaplain Mardi Jackson, followed by inmate Kevin Valvardi for the Catholic Church and SQ staff member Hector Frank Heredia, the Native American spiritual leader at San Quentin.

Inmates Ronnie Cooper for Buddhists and Mike Loftin for Native Americans led prayers on the second day.

"What inspired me to do this is that I have a mother and six sisters who could be affected by breast cancer. And, I had an aunt who had cancer," said San Quentin CARES co-founder and inmate Stephen Pascascio, who said, "It seems like the right thing to do. So far the inmates donated about \$1,500 in two and a half weeks."

Some of the inmate donors make as little as 18 cents an hour.

"They still help out by giving what they can," Pascascio said. "Their hearts are so compassionate."

"This event shows that San Quentin does care," said Community Partnership Manager Steve Emrick. "It sheds a good light on the men to show that they support the community."

Planning Committee volunteers Shannon Gordhamer and Berkle Donavan said they have been planning for this day since February.

"The biggest challenge was navigating the many, many layers and channels of the prison system to get things done," Gordhamer said. She added that San Quentin State Prison walkers are registered as a single

walker with Avon 39 The Walk to End Breast Cancer fundraisers.

In the six years San Quentin CARES has sponsored the walk inside this prison, more than \$42,000 has been raised, Gordhamer said.

"Many people find out that their loved one has cancer and it makes them feel powerless," Gordhamer said. "So, involving themselves in the walk is something tangible they can do to show their support. It's very inspiring—coming out to walk 39 miles in two days is a huge personal accomplishment." She added, "Even though we're in separate places we're a part of something together."

Gordhamer said the goal for outside donations is \$10,000.

Outside donations may be made to San Quentin CARES by going to: <http://info.avonfoundation.org/goto/SQCARES7>.

Donavan said the biggest challenge for her was getting outside volunteers to participate.

"I was asked to help and did not hesitate," Donavan said.

"The walk brings out the humanity inside this place. People ask me whether I walk with the inmates and when I tell them that we walk together, they seem somewhat surprised. I tell them that the men inside here have families who are affected by cancer just like people on the outside," she said.

As the walk went on, SQ staffer Kim Bailey took the stage, talking about her sisters and mom who did not survive cancer.

Before her mom passed away, Bailey experienced a walk at San Quentin while sitting in a chair with her mom, taking in the event. "Some of the guys came up to my mother and gave her support," Bailey said. "Anybody who did that, I thank you, because it made her very happy."

After hearing a couple of community members take to the stage and give support for the walk, Pascascio resumed the walking by playing music by lo-

cal Marin County musician Audrey Auld, who, Pascascio said, is battling cancer. The first song, *Hey Warden*, was developed in a songwriting workshop Auld held at San Quentin last year.

## INMATES SAY WHY THEY DONATE AND WALK:

**San Quentin CARES co-founder, Sam Johnson:** It gives me the opportunity to be a part of the community. My dad, Chris; sister-in-law, Pam; and brother-in law, Anthony, died of cancer. It's good to see people supportive and contributing to defeating this disease. It affects millions of people. It's an honor and privilege to be a part of this, so that the outside people can see what we do.

**Darnell "Moe" Washington:** I'm walking for my auntie, MeMe, and my uncle Michael who died of cancer. In spite of being behind bars, I really like to be able to give back. It goes to show no matter where you're at, you can be a part of helping others.

**Jerome Boone:** I believe in the cause. I know it affects people, almost all of us, in some kind of way. I just want to be a part of a greater thing.

**Antwan "Banks" Williams:** My grandmother is a survivor of breast cancer. It's not about us. It's about showing support. People need us. They need us in the right frame of mind.

**Rodney Capell:** Even though this negative thing brings us together, it is not a negative event. We are sharing a burden. We are finding comfort in each other.

**Lamar "Maverick" Harrison:** This is an opportunity for me to make amends and feel like I'm doing something.

**Kevin Pryor:** This is my third walk. I'm walking on behalf of my mother, Eunice Collins. I used to send her the pink wristband. My mom lost her battle to breast cancer last year on April 10. I shared this with a friend in Atlanta, Vanessa V. Love-Hudson. She shared that she

is a breast cancer survivor. This year, I'll send her the wristband.

**Dennis Crookes:** There's been people in my family who had cancer. I'm walking for my mom. There was this kid who died of cancer when I was young. That affected me.

**Habib Watkins:** I'm walking for my sister, Thelma Thomas who passed away in 1987.

**Lionel Bradley:** I'm walking for my mother, Maggie and my daughters, Juannsha and Juanneka. They are women and I'm concerned about them having to face breast cancer as all women do.

**Mark Tedeschi:** I'm walking for my mom and all breast cancer survivors. My mom had breast cancer and died from complications following surgery at age 52.

**Anthony Thomas:** I'm walking to help find a cure for cancer, and to help people understand that there's all kinds of cancer and it involves everyone. I'm just trying to give back.

**Ronnie Cooper:** My mother died from cancer, so this walk is personal. It makes me feel like I'm doing something worthwhile.

**Doug Ingham:** I'm doing this to support the men I'm walking with. I lost my mom to lung cancer 10 years ago. When I called my daughter this weekend and told her what I'm doing she got excited and told me that she's making a donation, too. There's three of us who are walking as a team (myself, Ronnie Cooper, and Ted Potter) for San Quentin's Chief Medical Officer, Dr. Elena Tootell, and we are the Moving Meditation Team, which is a program designed to help the diabetics.

**James Metters:** Coming from the perspective of a rehabilitated inmate, the walk gives me an opportunity to give back and makes me feel a part of the community.

**Mesro:** I'm walking for all the survivors everywhere. I want them to know that I'm fighting with them. When they survive, I

survive, too.

**Alliance For CHANGE, Pre-President, Isaiah (Abdur Raheem) Thompson-Bonilla:** It's time we stop talking about the problem and start doing something about it...walking for a cure. It's time to change the narrative.

**Alberto Mendez:** I walk for my little nephew who was born with cancer. Where I come from in Mexico, there's a lot of toxic waste. I also walk for all the women who will have to face breast cancer at some time in their life.

**Tommy "Shakur" Ross:** I'm walking because I think it's a beautiful thing to do for breast cancer awareness. It's a sense of community, and awareness. It's a beautiful day with the music. It's about honoring the women.

**Brian Asey:** I'm walking because it is the first time I'm able to donate. My mother expressed to me that she's been going to the doctor, but she hasn't told me that it might be breast cancer. It's different when it affects you personally.

**Morgan Tyson:** My mother and brother had cancer. Not only that, I have a great deal of respect for women today, which is different from the person who I used to be. Our mothers are the rock of the house. They are the ones that teach us. I have to respect women as someone who walks beside us, not behind us.

**Brian Shipp:** My sister is fighting breast cancer as we speak. This is a disease that's widespread, that needs funding and for people to understand that it hits all families. I have a long-time friend, Jamie, who has had a double mastectomy—she's still living. It changed her life to the point where she doesn't want to have boyfriends.

**Richard Zorns:** I'm walking because I care.

**Joga Sandher:** I lost four members to cancer. I walk to support the cause any way—to be a part of the breast cancer walk.

—Juan Haines



# Job Fair Sponsored by TRUST Program

By Kevin D. Sawyer  
Journalism Guild Chairman

Several Bay Area employers visited San Quentin State Prison in June to interview inmates at a first-of-its-kind job fair hosted by the inmate group TRUST (Teaching Responsibility Utilizing Sociological Training).

Employers came from Caltrans, Anders & Anders, Every Dog Has Its Day Care, Home of Chicken & Waffles, Aaron Metals and Planting Justice.

Prior to the job fair, Nelson “Nobel” Butler, 46, a TRUST inmate, and sponsor Diana Williams conducted employment readiness seminars over a five-week period to prepare the men to meet the employers.

“I started it because I was in the middle of going to the Board” (of Parole Hearings), said Butler. He wanted to know how to get a job because he has been incarcerated since age 19. “Men in prison have no way of finding out how to get a job,” he added.

“It was very helpful,” said William Anderson, 51. “I was very nervous when I first sat in front of an employer because I thought he’d ask personal questions.”

The inaugural class session focused on teaching inmates to get to know themselves, work values, identify career options, transferable skills, strengths and various forms of administrative communication.

“I really liked the groups in the seminars,” said Robert Butler III, 56. “For me, this is a course that leads to success. I built a notebook for reference in the future.”

The second class taught the men how to present themselves on paper. They also learn how to write different types of resumes, create cover letters and master applications and Job Information Seeking and Training (JIST) cards.

An employer, Planting Justice, spoke with the men about building urban gardens. It’s a



Photo by Nigel Poor

Diana Williams and Nelson “Nobel” Butler

nonprofit, grass roots, holistic re-entry organization based in Oakland. Its program teaches ex-felons empowerment through farming food.

“Planting Justice also participates in a rehabilitation program called Pathways to Resilience, which brings organizations together to provide services for people coming out of prison,” the *East Bay Express* reported in April.

The men prepared by doing mock interviews, learning to write follow-up letters and prepare turnaround packets containing documentation on what they have accomplished in prison. “The person you were when you committed the crime is not the person you are today,” a class handout says.

Also attending the job fair were career development professionals from Centerforce, California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation (CDCR) parole agents and Bob Wright, owner of the marketing company Firebrick.

Wright told the men to “find something that you’re really good at doing and do it well.”

“Our agency will pay your union dues,” said Glenn Bell, an employment services specialist with Private Industry Council. He said PIC will also help the men get tools and other items once they are released on parole.

“We will guide you to a professional case manager,” said Donald Hom, parole agent with the CDCR. He also provided material on programs available through the parole office.

CDCR parole agent Roy Welcholz told the men that he believed they will do well on parole, but he said the inmates he is most concerned with are the ones who were not at the job fair. He urged the men to reach out to other inmates and convince them to take the seminar.

“Your initial interview with your parole officer is like a job interview,” said Tyrone “T-Bone” Allen, 56, an inmate who co-facilitated the TRUST seminars. He said the pilot project went well enough to create a demand for it.

“We make it a routine to hire people who have been incarcerated,” said Jesyah Forkash, one of the owners of Aaron Metals. She said when her company trains the formerly incarcerated, it wants them to remain with the company. “We want them to go from being a lifer in prison to being lifers with us.”

Myeast McCauley, an office chief with Caltrans, demonstrated a level of professionalism many inmates are likely to emulate. His demeanor was calm, and he seemed genuinely connected to each inmate’s urgency to find employment.

Working in tandem with McCauley was Debra Smith, from Caltrans external affairs. The men, many who have never been on a job interview, appeared to be very comfortable in her presence.

“I liked the employers coming in,” said Markelle Taylor Sr., 42. He said the class taught him about the support employers in the community are giving to reduce recidivism. He said that he has never had a problem finding employment, but he did not understand it from the perspective of a convicted felon. “The refresher on interviewing was good.”

In the final weeks leading up to the job fair, the men formed small groups to review and critique resumes, applications and JIST cards. They also learned how and where to look for employment with ex-offender-friendly businesses.

One of those businesses is Derrick Johnson’s Home of Chicken & Waffles restaurant. According to a July 2012 blog posted by JailstoJobs, Johnson “hires ex-offenders with the help of the City of Oakland’s Measure Y program.” It provides \$20 million a year to fund programs such as violence prevention, which includes young adult re-entry services.

“Hearing these guys’ stories made me want to help them transform their lives,” Johnson is quoted in the blog. “We all make mistakes. Some of us get caught with our mistakes. Some of us don’t.”

According to a January report by the National Employment Law Project, “Reflecting the growing political consensus behind ‘smart on crime’ reforms, elected officials from across the ideological spectrum have embraced ‘fair chance’ hiring policies.”

Assemblyman Sandré Swanson, D-Alameda, selected Johnson in 2009 as an honoree in his district. He praised Johnson’s practice of hiring and training local workers, including many

at-risk youth. Johnson has also been honored by the California Small Business Association.

In 2013, the *Post News Group* reported, “One of the initiatives Johnson wants to implement is the ‘Hire one, Teach one, Love one’ program for ex-offenders,” which he now implements at his restaurants.

Chung Kao, 54, said the highlight of his training was doing his inventory interest assessment. “It told me more accurately about myself than I could do about my own interests. That stuff is very accurate if you follow it step by step.”

“I like working with people who are really trying to change their lives,” said Williams. “I’m inspired by the commitment the men had doing all the work.” She said jobs are the number one factor to prevent recidivism. In regard to the employers that came to the prison, she said, “It gave me a lot of hope.”

In an email sent to Williams after the job fair, one employer wrote: “Thank you for the opportunity to meet the members of TRUST – they are an impressive group of men. All of the men I spoke with were poised, articulate, and genuine, characteristics that are lacking in the majority of the individuals I interview as part of my regular day. Please pass on to them my admiration. I would gladly take part in other job readiness events in the future. Please keep me in mind.”

Williams said TRUST hopes to have another seminar ready by October.

“The federal government has been encouraging employers to be more forgiving,” according to a June Pew Charitable Trusts article.

Williams has been a volunteer sponsor with TRUST for 10 months. She also volunteers with California Re-entry Institute and VOEG Inside Prison Project and is a former director of development for fundraising. She has an M.A. in counseling psychology and is a Certified Professional Co-active Coach.

## First Sitting President to Visit Federal Prison

By John Lam  
Journalism Guild Writer

A presidential visit to a prison has ignited a national conversation about what it means.

“President Barack Obama became the first sitting president to visit a federal prison. While that may seem surprising, there’s actually a really simple, if cynical, explanation: Not only

are prisoners generally reviled by society, but a great majority of them can’t vote, reducing the incentive for a politician to care about them,” according to [www.vox.com](http://www.vox.com).

Forty-eight states have various laws that bar those with criminal records from voting; in only two states, Maine and Vermont, does everyone have the right to vote, regardless of

criminal record, according to the American Civil Liberties Union.

“In 2012, more than 5.8 million Americans were not legally allowed to vote due to prisoner and felony disenfranchisement,” the Sentencing Project reported.

Hardest hit by disenfranchisement laws is the African-American population — in Florida,

Kentucky and Virginia, Black disenfranchisement was more than 20 percent, according to data by the Sentencing Project.

The purpose of the visit by President Obama to the federal medium-security prison near Oklahoma City was to push for criminal justice reforms that would decrease incarceration, according to the *Washington Post*.



File photo

President Obama

## ‘Ban the Box’ Movement Gains National Traction

By Nathan Hall  
Journalism Guild Writer

Efforts are underway to help former prisoners find jobs. The focus is to “ban the box” on job applications that would disclose any criminal convictions.

Tamisha Walker recalls her first encounter with the box.

“Right then and there, it was like the air went out of my tires,” Walker told reporter Lydia De-

Pillis, who was writing for the *Washington Post’s* online feature Storyline.

Walker said she got an interview but didn’t get that job; however, she did get another job as a community organizer.

Since then, Walker has helped pass a law in the city of Richmond that bans city government and its contractors from asking about criminal history on initial job applications.

Soon after, California passed a law requiring state agencies to delay asking the question until after determining the applicant meets the basic requirements of a job.

“Meanwhile, the ‘ban the box’ movement was sweeping the country,” DePillis reported. “Since Hawaii became the first jurisdiction to protect the employment prospects of people with criminal records in 1998,

12 more states and 97 cities and counties have passed some version of ‘fair chance’ hiring.”

In September Walker attended a White House meeting to urge the federal government to take similar action. A number of community-based organizations have joined the effort, asking President Obama to “ban the box” for federal agencies and their contractors.

“Now is the time for President

Obama to act boldly to open up employment opportunities for the large numbers of Americans who have been unfairly locked out of the job market because of a criminal record,” says a report drafted by the National Employment Law Project.

DePillis is described as a reporter focusing on labor, business and housing. She worked previously at *The New Republic* and the *Washington City Paper*.



# Raising Our Children in the Struggle

By Watani Stiner  
Contributing Writer

I was somewhat surprised that my children born in South America don't seem to share my passion for fighting for racial justice in the United States, that they don't even see its injustice the way I do. Because of this, it throws into question my assumptions about how they thought about me when we were apart. I wonder what my children were thinking about me when they were in foster care...so young and knowing so little of my story and what had happened to me. Why was I in prison? What was their narrative about me?

After all, they didn't grow up in this country; that wasn't the context they were immersed in. They had no conception of the rising intensity of racial antagonism within this country that continues today. Nor had they ever heard of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. or Malcolm X. All that my children knew was that they

had a loving daddy and then he left, and when he left, things turned into a nightmare.

As a young activist fighting for social justice during the tumultuous 1960s, I was focused on wanting to make a difference for the very reason of wanting children – my children, everyone's children – to be able to grow up in a just and safe world. I had a big picture view, a revolutionary vision that was a kind of love for them.

Would I do it all again the same way, knowing the huge emotional toll it has taken on my children? I was not there when they needed me most. But my choice was not just about making a difficult decision to join the struggle for social change. It was also about a racist system and the actions of COINTELPRO that limited my choices. I can't honestly say that there are

no regrets. But if I had to do it all over again, I would. However, this time I would be mindful of the collateral damage done to my children. I would never forsake or take for granted the small picture for the big picture.

In a strange way, the ironic outcome of me not being there for them is that my children don't see or understand the issues like they might have if I had been teaching and dialoguing with them all those years. Sadly but truthfully, being in prison for so many years, separating them from their children, is the plight of so many Black fathers. Because my life was sacrificed for the struggle, *the big picture*, I didn't get to raise my own children to see critical social issues as I would want them to. And in fact, a few of my children have some beliefs that are really shocking to me. That is a hard

outcome to have, given my life for the struggle.

A thing that feels so poignant to me is that my pregnant daughter Latanya, with her unborn son, proclaims passionately how she will never abandon her child. She will care for him above and beyond any and everything else. She will always be there for him, to comfort, protect and support him in all his dreams and aspirations. For Latanya, there is no issue more compelling and important to her than raising her child. She says, "I can name a million and one incidents where I would rather have had you there than you being where you were because of what you were doing for 'your people'! So like I said, Dad, the price you paid was not worth it! It's not that I don't care. I just care more about my child!"

I realize that Latanya is just as passionate about her unborn

child as I was in my passion for revolutionary social change in this country. But I also understand that if the society in which she lives is not just, and sees her son as less-than, then all the love she pours into him and all the protection she offers will not be enough. She will long for changes in society so that he can thrive and grow in the ways every mother wants to see.

It feels tenderly naive to me that she thinks that she on her own can make his world. She can do a lot, but he will have to live in this society. She can "choose him above everything else," but he and all of us still need activists fighting for justice. My grandson also needs the social justice work I care about. If I have come to any conclusion at all about family and social struggle, it is this: It is not a question of *either/or* but must be a balance of *both/and*. My hope for my unborn grandson is that he cries out into a world where justice prevails and Black lives truly matter.

## An 'OG's' Perspective

# Reflections on Corrections Policy and Ethics

By Juan Haines  
Managing Editor

By reviewing *The Bet* by Anton Chekhov and *Consensus of Death* by Kenny Brydon, I was able to delve into what it's like to live behind bars from the perspective of the incarcerated.

With Chekhov, it's a philosophical juggling act, while Brydon faced the stark reality of experience.

Ursula Le Guin gives me the chance to reflect on corrections policy and ethics in *The Ones Who Walk Away From Omelas*.

I received Le Guin's short story from a friend who used to come inside this place and teach me how to write. She's never abandoned her inspiring and awesome support in what my pen produces.

Lizzie Buchen, who has just begun a new job with Californians United for a Responsible Budget as Statewide Advocacy and Communications Co-coor-

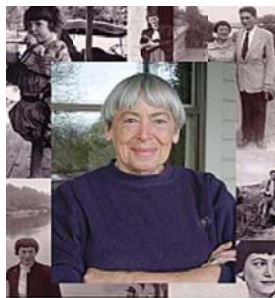
dinator sends me reading material all the time so that I better understand the psychological and social impact of incarceration.

After taking in this story, I weighed upon what Fyodor Dostoevsky says: "Man is a being that can get used to anything, but don't ask us how."

Le Guin confronts Dostoevsky by asking "How?" in her fascinating and beautifully crafted narrative *The Ones Who Walk Away From Omelas*.

The story contains picturesque and descriptive language of a place where I'd love to live—a place of swallows soaring—where you can see the rigging of the boats and the streets between houses with red roofs and painted walls. Yeah, this is an enchanting sight in my mind's eye.

Everything about *The Ones*



File photo

Ursula Le Guin

*Who Walk Away From Omelas* gives me a deep-rooted feeling of comfort.

"I loved Le Guin's juxtaposition of images and ideas," Emile DeWeaver of *SQ Reviews* said. "She contrasts 'grave master workmen' with 'quiet, merry women,' and mountain snow burns with 'white-gold fire.'"

## BOOK REVIEW

# Dehumanization of Humans in Selma, Alabama

By S. Q. Reviews

In *Selma*, director Ava DuVernay portrays Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s (David Oyelowo) struggle to get the Voting Rights Act passed.

Although DuVernay touches on King's human flaws – his infidelity, his pride – she focuses on King's contribution to civil rights in America.

An early scene where children die in a church bombing reminds S.Q. Reviewers of recent hate crimes in places like Charleston, South Carolina.

"It's sad that it's happening today," Jonathan Chiu says after we meet outside the San Quentin Newsroom. "I compare Obama to Johnson. When people look back on Obama's presidency, what are they going to say about what Obama did while churches were burning

and Black children were being executed in the streets?"

Juan Meza says, "There's something going on that hasn't stopped. Churches still burn; something in our neighborhoods is still foul. If a Chicano were in office he would send money to schools in the hood, like: We're changing this."

Meza looks to the reviewers seated in a circle around him before he continues. "Do you feel like Obama holds back, so he doesn't appear biased?"

"He said that he's not a Black president, he's the American President," says Rahsaan Thomas.

"He's supposed to be a Black President!" Meza says. "Why

isn't he focused on the problems that plague the Black community?"

Chiu says, "Hillary is going to get in office and work for women's interests. You can believe that."

"And you'd get lynched if you criticized her for it," Emile DeWeaver says. "So what does it say about American progress when Obama must tip-toe around Black issues for fear of stirring up a racial crap-storm, but if Hillary champions women's interests, she'll be seen as just that: a champion?"

"It's bullcrap," says Thomas, "but it's where society is at. It's good that society has become more accepting of women with

power, but it seems like we have a way to go to overcome the racial hatreds of the past. Obama is just doing the best he can in the face of history." Thomas turns to DeWeaver and says, "It's no different than the practicality you admired in King."

Earlier, DeWeaver talked about how King didn't use non-violence just because King was a morally good person.

"It wasn't just a moral stance," DeWeaver said. "It was practical because they couldn't win a gun war with the U.S. But it was a war. And King was very intelligent with the way he conducted it."

"I have a new-found respect for King's type of non-violence because it was systematic," said Meza. "It wasn't *let's just go sit down*, it was *let's provoke*."

"King knew his case for in-

which the autumn light could come to him."

In this truth, I question what extent societies will undergo in order to maintain a nicely pictured life. Moreover, what we, as Americans, are willing to tolerate in order to maintain "Law and Order."

Le Guin challenges readers' morality by presenting an argument: the most good for the most people in the community is a price that could be sufficiently paid by the suffering of one.

This is a moral question for each citizen of Omelas—individually.

"Often it is just such an exceptionally difficult external situation which gives man the opportunity to grow spiritually beyond himself," Viktor E. Frankl, author of *Man's Search for Meaning* remarked.

And so did the ones who walked away from Omelas.

Write to *San Quentin News* if you're incarcerated and want a copy of the story.

justice was better illustrated by people seeing cops beating innocents on TV instead of viewing a Black rebellion," said DeWeaver. "That is part of what brought about the change because the narrative of that era dehumanized minorities, and that dehumanization is what allows human beings to mistreat others. But those scenes on TV showed humans screaming in the street."

"Yeah, King was responsible," Thomas said. "I feel like we have to think that way, as prisoners. A lot of stereotypes keep the public scared of us. We've gotta show them we're human."

We rate *Selma* 4 out of 5 dinner cookies.

Contributors: Rahsaan Thomas, Emile DeWeaver, Juan Meza, John Chiu



# Arts & Entertainment

## Snippets

Uncommon to most people that the Native American gave the Americans language words like “squash, raccoon, bayou, and suffering succotash,” as well.

Performing the lighting of the Olympic torch represents the fire stolen from the Greek God Zeus. Prior to beginning the Olympic games the torch is lit in ancient Olympia as a tradition.

Racketeering, bootleg Ralcohol, prostitution, and gambling was how Al Capone earned his income during the prohibition era. Capone’s annual salary was \$10 million, tax-free.

Immigrants from Mexico and Asia called the brazeros were contracted by the United States to build the railroads. After the railroads were completed, they were not paid, instead, they were deported.

Stones were taken off the walls of the Taj Mahal by the British during the Indian uprising of 1857.

Eventually by 13 years old, Tina Turner was abandoned by both parents. Her mom left when she was 10 and her father at 13 leaving her and her sister to live with her grandmother and extended families.

*"On the occasion of every accident that befalls you, remember to turn to yourself and inquire what power you have for turning it to use"*  
-Epictetus

## Sudoku Corner

7	4	2	3	9				
		8	7				2	
5				1	2			
				2		5		
1	3						7	9
		6		7				
			2	3				8
	8				7	9		
				8	1	7	6	5

	2				1			
	3	7					6	
8			6				2	5
		8		5		6		1
3				6				4
2		9		1		8		
7	1				5			2
	8					5	1	
			1				3	



Photo courtesy of Richard Lindsey

Jessie Lau in Hong Kong with the San Quentin News

## Complete This Puzzle Win a Prize!

You’re on a plane and the plane runs out of gas. Your next move is to gather supplies before you parachute, knowing you’re going to land on a desert. Bear in mind that a man should never carry more than one-third of his weight and a woman should never carry more than one-quarter of her body weight. You weigh your pack before you leap. But your pack is big and lumpy, and you can’t get it to stay on your scale without falling off.

How can you accurately weigh it?

### Rules:

The prize will be for completion of brain twister puzzles. All puzzle submissions should be sent via u-save-em envelope to San Quentin News/Education Department. Only one entry per person.

All correct submissions will be placed in a hat. The winner will be picked by a drawing of the first answer from that hat.

The answer and winner’s name will be published in the next issue of the San Quentin News.

### Last Month’s Trivia Answer:

The answer is 6. There were 12 prisoners before the escape, making 40 people total on the ship, and 15 percent of 40 is 6.

The winner of last month’s puzzle is: E. Vick.

Congratulations to the contestants who also got the puzzle right: Edward Wycoff, Richard Hirschfield, and Javier Victorianne.

Thank you for playing!

The prize winner will receive four Granola Bars. Prizes will only be offered to inmates who are allowed to receive the prize items. Inmates transferred, sent to ad/seg or otherwise not available to claim their prize will result in forfeiture.



Photo courtesy of Richard Lindsey

Members of the Rotary Club of Mission San Rafael in Todos Santos, Baja Sur, Mexico, on a volunteer trip to provide new housing for the staff of The Hogar del Niño (children’s home). L to R: Jack Wilkinson, Susanne Karch, Jim Ring, Vic and Patty Baldridge and Sandra Gordon.

3	5	9	7	1	6	4	8	2
6	2	8	9	3	4	5	7	1
1	4	7	8	5	2	6	3	9
2	6	3	4	9	1	7	5	8
8	1	4	5	6	7	2	9	3
7	9	5	3	2	8	1	4	6
9	3	2	1	7	5	8	6	4
5	8	6	2	4	3	9	1	7
4	7	1	6	8	9	3	2	5

5	7	2	3	1	4	6	8	9
1	9	8	5	6	2	4	7	3
3	6	4	9	7	8	2	1	5
8	5	6	2	3	1	7	9	4
9	1	3	7	4	6	5	2	8
4	2	7	8	5	9	3	6	1
7	4	9	6	8	5	1	3	2
6	8	1	4	2	3	9	5	7
2	3	5	1	9	7	8	4	6

## Save Our Water



Learn easy ways to save water during California’s drought at

[SaveOurWater.com](http://SaveOurWater.com)



# Twenty-Four Graduate From ELITE's Intensive San Quentin Self-Help Program

By Charles David Henry  
Journalism Guild Writer

It was a day of smiles and pride for 24 San Quentin inmates who graduated from an intensive self-help program aimed at helping them improve themselves and their lives.

The program is Exploring Leadership and Improving Transitional Effectiveness' (ELITE) 16-week program. The ceremony was held in the Muslim/Jewish Chapel.

The ELITE training program was established at San Quentin in 2012 to assist individuals in their everyday personal endeavors. The program enhances an individual's emotional intelligence, social competences, self awareness, motivation, commitment, empathy and social skills. All these personal developments improve communication skills, intrapersonal and inter-relational proficiency.

During the June 17 graduation ceremonies, the audience and staff were given an opportunity to hear how ELITE's rigorous curriculum and workshop transformed an individual's thinking and behavior. These are practices incorporated into the leadership paradigm expected from all graduates who complete this self-help format.

"We believe by acquiring these skills, one is able to alter his behavior and thinking in such a way he can turn his situation around to yield benefit and deter harm," said Chairman Tommy "Shakur" Ross.

This multi-ethnic group received hands-on training in the concepts of emotional intelligence. These self-help skills

give the individual the ability to gauge and assess his own personal strength and weakness, enhance communication, interpersonal communication and managerial skills, the program noted.

Richard Mayer, a recent graduate, read a short story about how Thomas Edison inspired him. Edison was the inventor of the incandescent lamp, better known today as the light bulb. Soon after his invention became recognized throughout the world, reporters came to his home in East Orange, N.J., to interview him about the invention.

*"These self-help skills give the individual the ability to gauge and assess his own personal strength and weakness"*

One reporter asked Edison, "How does it feel to have failed 350 times to create the incandescent lamp?" Edison paused for a moment to reflect on the question and replied, "I didn't fail. I found 350 ways not to make the lamp and one way to make it."

Mayer said he is encouraged by this story because it speaks volumes about ELITE's training program. "It inspires a shared vision."

David "Da'ud" Coulson Sr., ELITE's secretary, associates



Photo by Sgt. Sino

ELITE's graduates, facilitators and sponsors smile to celebrate the graduating class

this training program to a curriculum that strengthens the understanding of the individual's unique leadership qualities.

Aaron Martin, another recent ELITE graduate, spent 16 weeks filled with self-worth. "I've been encouraged to access areas in my life that could use some personal, family or community leadership, so in these regards I could use leadership in my personal life to discipline myself, to make life-changing

decisions in regards to God, family and myself."

A highlight of the graduation came when "Da'ud" introduced ELITE's sponsor, Vivienne Florendo. Speaking on behalf of the 24 graduates, he told her, "We the combined groups had this oversize card made. We were dared to be different and unique, so we met this challenge. The size of this card metaphorically speaks to and represents the size of your

contribution, dedication and the amount we appreciate you, which is immensely, thus the size of the card. Thank you, Vivienne, for all you do."

When asked why she chose this group to sponsor, considering her distinct and unique background and work experience, Vivienne said, "My life and work has revolved around helping others become the best they can be physically and mentally."

## Before a Parole Board Hearing, Be Sure to Check Your File

By Rahsaan Thomas  
Sports Writer

Kacy Duane Lloyd says non-violent second-striker parole program applicants should carefully check their files to ensure the information is accurate. He says he didn't, and he was denied a parole date because his file contained wrong information.

"Do not depend on your counselors or UCC (Unit Classification Committee) to make sure the facts presented to the board are accurate," said Lloyd. "You should request an Olson review."

During an Olson review, an inmate's counselor allows him to see the information contained inside his file, except for confidential sections, under California Code of Regulations Title 15, 3370(c).

Inmates do not appear before the board under the non-violent second-strikers (NVSS) parole process. The early release program was implemented under the federal court's Plata decision requiring the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation to reduce the prison population to 137.5 percent of design capacity by February of

next year.

The classification committee reviews inmates' files and refers those eligible to the parole board, which makes their determination by evaluating the prisoner's paperwork.

*"If my rehabilitation is the most important factor, why would they use my past when they know I wasn't rehabilitated then?"*

Lloyd had been eagerly waiting for a chance for his paperwork to be reviewed by the board since February 2014.

That's when the federal court ordered the state "to create and implement a new parole process through which non-violent second-strikers (NVSS) will be eligible for parole consideration by the Board of Parole Hearings

(BPH) once they have served 50 percent of their sentence," according to the Prison Law Office.

After a second court order and other delays, the classification committee saw Lloyd in March and referred his case to the BPH.

Lloyd's case went before the board on April 30. Marc Remis of the BPH recommended denying release because: "The current offense for transportation or sale of a controlled substance while a member of a street gang is an aggravating factor."

Lloyd pointed to his abstract of judgment that does not mention being convicted of a gang allegation in regard to the controlling offense of sell/transport of a controlled substance.

Remis also found that Lloyd had 10 prior felony convictions "presenting a repetitive pattern of robberies and/or weapons including multiple serious felonies..." according to a copy of the BPH 1047 form.

However, Lloyd's felony complaint lists three prior convictions, not 10. However, his file does list numerous arrests, mostly as a juvenile.

While in prison, Lloyd has

taken advantage of the rehabilitative programs and earned his GED.

Remis did mention Lloyd's institutional record as a mitigating factor.

"Mr Lloyd's institutional record shows some compliance with institutional rules and programs by participating in GED, CCCMS Programming, anger management and re-entry, as well as working as a porter. However, there are two counseling chronos for failing to report to work and inciting a group of other inmates. Mr. Lloyd's institutional record is a mitigating factor," said Remis on the BPH 1047 form.

"If my rehabilitation is the most important factor, why would they use my past when they know I wasn't rehabilitated then?" asked Lloyd. "This is an incentive program based on current rehabilitation efforts for non-violent second strikers. My California Risk Assessment is a "one" (low-risk score), according to what my counselors have told me."

Lloyd says there is no 602 appeal process to a NVSS BPH denial; however, he has filed a Writ of Habeas Corpus.

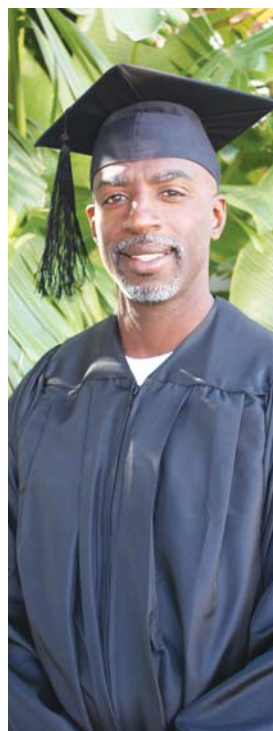


Photo by Sam Hearnes

Kacy Duane Lloyd earned his GED inside prison



# What Would You Do With Education if Money Wasn't an Issue?

## Asked On The Line

By Angelo Falcone  
Journalism Guild Writer

Asked on the Line conducted random interviews with the men in blue and asked, "If money or time was not an issue, what type of degree would you like to obtain and why?"

Antwan Williams: Sound Engineering. I am so into the production of music; it's fascinating. Everything that goes into it is out of this world. You have to literally have an ear for it.

Michael Calvin Holmes: Behavioral Science, so I can better understand society as a whole and understand myself better and ultimately help improve so-

ciety.

James Metters: Theology. Theology is a course that at my age I can complete and then I can go on and earn a doctorate degree and help the community like Martin Luther King did for his community. I would like to help improve the moral issues of the community. You can cut a lot of corners and get to the meat of the social issues with theology.

Kerwin Jackson: Seminary or Theology. Because of my faith and because of what God has put in my heart, to go out and help people build a solid foundation in Christ Jesus.

Quinton Walker: Social Be-

havioral Science. It deals with people and society. It's important because as an Alcohol and Drug Addiction counselor it would help me better understand people.

Tommy Ross: Social Sciences with an emphasis in psychology. My whole thing is being able to give back to my community. By being book smart and street smart, it would give me credibility to reach out to my community.

Brad Carney: Environmental Sciences. If you don't take care of the planet, we will stop existing as a species.

Jesse Alvarado: A medical degree. I would like to be a physician and make medical services available for poor people and for immigrants without access to medical insurance.

Vincent Blackburn: Medical degree. There would be unlimited things I can do. It's vast. I can go to many levels in medicine, like neurology and psychiatry.

Joel Moore: Mechanical Engineering. I like working with my hands and working with ma-

chines like car engines.

Walter Johnson: Marine Biology: I love animals. I love fishing. Ever since my daddy put a fishing pole in my hand, I have been drawn to fish. I want to help animals. I am fascinated by marine animals.

## Finding Employment for Ex-Felons



File photo

Joe Paul, shown speaking at an earlier event

By Rahsaan Thomas  
Staff Writer

Lifers can overcome all the obstacles to succeeding on parole if they empower themselves, former prisoner Joe Paul advised a San Quentin audience.

"If you can walk off a life sentence, you can get a job," said Paul, program manager at Jericho Vocational Service Center, which is part of the Shield for Families Program.

The dynamic speaker walked into San Quentin's Protestant Chapel June 29 dressed sharply in a gray pinstriped suit, red tie with white polka dots and shiny black leather slip-on shoes.

He said he served four years on a voluntary manslaughter sentence. Now he's on a reentry and rehabilitation committee out of California Attorney General Kamala Harris' Los Angeles office called Back on Track.

"I'm looking at success and what success has done is bring one of ours back to show us what it looks like in a suit," said prisoner Antony Waldrup.

Paul came in to speak to TRUST (Teaching Responsibility Utilizing Sociological Training) and Project LA members about the resources he can help parolees utilize.

With him was Regina Banks, a staff services manager for California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation, Division of Rehabilitation Programs, Employment Development Unit.

"Realignment has meant that we have more long-term, harder-to-place inmates in society that are coming out and need services," said Banks. "CDCR has been trying. They started 13 re-

entry hubs and beefed up community reentry programs based on new needs. Every time a yard changes over, it affects all 35 institutions. Things may be slow, but in the last three years, things have been moving more so."

Around 50 members of Project LA and TRUST heard Paul talked about how his program is a counterpart to Project LA. It helps parolees succeed by educating them to the services available and preparing them for reentry. The curriculum starts with 90 days inside prison with Project LA and continues with another 90 days with Jericho Vocational Services Center in Compton.

"You don't have to fit the program; the program will fit you. Project LA is about wrapping your head around what it takes to come back home to South LA," said Paul.

Project LA fills the gap in Los Angeles County for reentry services like job preparation, 12-week vocational training programs, transitional housing and job opportunities.

Paul further talked about the self-efficacy an ex-con needs to be hired.

"Pigeons flock to eat the bread crumbs off the ground. They have no power in causing that resource or keeping it," said Paul.

When an inmate expressed doubt over whether he could be hired because of old age, being a felon and losing the right to work in certain fields, Paul said, "That's a pigeon mentality. Federal law says you can't discriminate over age. They have business necessity reasons, but they can't discriminate. The older you are, the more experience you

bring to the table."

"You can't tell them, 'I'm too old.' Tell them, 'I know what I know,'" added Banks.

"An employer cares about how you can make him money. Iron Man was right at CMC West prison. Do you think Hollywood cares when he is making them millions? What can you bring to the table?" said Paul.

"You bring more to the table than people in the street could ever imagine. You go see the board, and they say come back in five years," said Paul. "Most people in society can't take getting a parking ticket. Ain't nobody on the streets dealing with this kind of stuff, and you mean to tell me you can't get a job?"

He recommends filing for positions that bar felons.

"Criminal records have become a civil rights issue. I have gotten five lifers their (union) cards. If you want to do something, apply. They are going to turn you down; then we go for an individual assessment," said Paul.

Banks was questioned about CDCR's failure to provide services for non-violent, non-serious, non-sexual offenders, who leave state prison under Realignment on probation instead of parole.

"CDCR funds programs for those on parole through the 1502 process," said Banks. "But we do know a lot of people are going to be on probation; we partner with others to handle that. We are working on more coordinated efforts. That's why we work with Shields, but CDCR isn't funding them," said Banks.

Shields for Families is a 25-year-old not-for-profit that serves South-Central LA, Compton and Watts. It started in the late '80s or early '90s to deal with the crack epidemic and evolved to mass incarceration and reentry, according to Paul.

For parolees "We do fund a transitional house where employment is your first need. Take advantage of the programs and services that they offer, because they do work," she continued.

"If you don't get out of here and do something with your lives, what is the point?" asked Paul. "I'm hiring people who have done long terms in prison to show the world what we can do."

Drawing Time...  
the freedom to create

We invite you to participate in the 9<sup>th</sup> art show by the Partnership for Re-Entry Program (PREP). Please spread the word and get your artist friends involved! We welcome art in any size and all media. Art lovers enjoy famous portraits, nature, animals, and landscapes just to name a few. Poetry, beadwork, yard work, sculptures, etc. are welcome.

**PREP ART SHOW 2015**  
**October 10, 2015**  
**Home boy Industries, Los Angeles, CA**

Because of our faith perspective, we want to stay away from gang, sex or violent pieces. Please do not write notes or letters on your artwork. Proceeds will help PREP continue to serve parolees through counseling, education housing referrals in efforts to combat the high recidivism rate.

Artwork submission is ongoing and the deadline is Sept. 20, 2015. Please include a statement about your work, title and a brief biography. If you have difficulty shipping the art, please let us know and we can work with the chaplains. Please note artwork cannot be returned. Please send your artwork to:

**PREP**  
**P.O. Box 77850**  
**Los Angeles, CA 90007**

PREP Contact: Sister Mary Sean Hodges  
Office (323) 299-9547  
Cell (323) 371-0757

## Self-Restraint And Self-Discipline During Ramadan

By Michael Cooke  
Journalism Guild Writer

For Muslims the observance of Ramadan is the most holy time of the Islamic calendar. It is a month of both contemplation and celebration.

Ramadan is the once-a-year opportunity for Muslims all over the world to rebuild, rejuvenate and renew their faith. It is the time of the year when Muslims purify both their bodies and souls to be as close to Allah as humanly possible. It is a time of renewal, commemorating when the Holy Quran was revealed to the Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him).

It is a very special time that Muslims look forward to eagerly. Although fasting is beneficial to the health, it is principally regarded as a method of self-purification. It is a time to take control of our lives by learning to exercise self-restraint and practice self-discipline. But it is also a time when we are very thankful and celebrate because we feel very close to Allah.

Ramadan this year, however, may be different from any other in recent history. Nerves run short and tensions are high as we see many Muslims freeze, starve and suffer from insurgent attacks and military aggression in Afghanistan, Iraq and Syria, as well as many other atrocities taking place around the planet.

For 30 days, from sunrise to sunset, observant Muslims, that are physically capable, abstain from taking anything by mouth, including food and water. But the month is about more than just fasting. A fasting person gains true sympathy with those who go hungry frequently.

To purify the mind and heart, Muslims engage in reading and studying a minimum of one thirtieth of the Holy Quran every day during the month-long fast. Special prayers are offered, good deeds are performed and amends are made with anyone we've held animosity toward.

Celebrating Ramadan is one of the five pillars of Islam. According to the Holy Quran, Muslims must try to keep fit physically, intellectually and spiritually. The physical manifestations occur throughout the fast during the month of Ramadan. The spirit is served by study, nightly worship and special prayers. For the intellect, one must establish complete justice in the community in order to attain peace.

To those who understand the significance of Ramadan, I hope it was a fulfilling occasion in your lives and that you received every benefit you sought. May the peace and blessings of Allah's infinite Grace and Mercy be upon everyone at this time and throughout the rest of the year.



**1. Sacramento** — For the first time since 2006, California has regained full control of the inmate healthcare system in one of its prisons, *The Associated Press* reports. J. Clark Kelso, the overseer of prison medical care and spending, returned responsibility for the health of some 2,400 inmates at Folsom State Prison on June 8, to the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation.

**2. Sacramento** — **Dean Borg**, 52, has been appointed deputy director of the Division of Facility Planning, Construction and Management at the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation, where he has served as acting deputy director of the division since 2013 and was associate director from 2007 to 2013.

**3. Sacramento** — **Eric Arnold**, 54, has been appointed warden at California State Prison, Solano, where he has served as acting warden since 2014 and was chief deputy warden from 2013 to 2014.

**4. California Rehabilitation Center, Norco** — Medical care at this prison has been deemed adequate despite claims that the facility is unsafe, *The Associated Press* reports. Democratic Sen. Loni Hancock, D-Berkeley, says the prison is so dilapidated that it threatens the health and safety of inmates as



well as employees. Hancock has asked Gov. Jerry Brown to close the prison.

**5. Boise, Idaho** — Inmates claim that the state officials are deliberately misleading a court-appointed examiner on prison health care by tampering with medical records and hiding problem inmates, *The As-*

*sociated Press* reports. Prison officials contend the inmates’ claims are without merit and little more than exaggerations based on unsubstantiated hearsay.

**6. Colorado** — Nine current and former immigrant detainees are allowed to file a lawsuit against a private prison con-

tractor that paid them \$1 a day for forced labor at a detention center owed by GEO Group, *The Associated Press* reports. The lawsuit claims GEO randomly picked six detainees and forced them to clean rooms at the Aurora Detention Facility.

**7. Albuquerque, N.M.** — The state’s “three strikes” law is

weak and doesn’t do enough to take violent criminals off the streets, *The Associated Press* reports. Gov. Susana Martinez said. “We have one. But as a prosecutor for 25 years, I was never able to prosecute anyone who had committed three different violent crimes” under the law’s set timetable.

**8. Oklahoma City** — The Department of Corrections is misinterpreting state law by prohibiting thousands of inmates from qualifying for earned credits that could allow them to be released from prison earlier, Gov. Mary Fallin wrote in an executive memorandum publicly released by *The Associated Press*. The change would affect about 6,000 inmates and result in savings of about \$2.3 million in the first 18 months.

**9. Austin, Texas** — Prison officials are looking for emergency capacity to handle 4,000 more inmates at the same time they are trying to cut spending, *UPI* reports. The prison population is at nearly 98 percent of current capacity with 147,565 inmates.

**10. Angola, La.** — Forty-nine students boarded school buses for a 172-mile round trip to and from the Louisiana State Penitentiary. “You see it on TV,” said Marvin Richard Jr., 18, “but when you see it in real life, it’s an eye-opener,” *The Associated Press* reported.

# Norway Prisons Taking Rehabilitation to Another Level

By Anouthinh Pangthong  
Journalism Guild Writer

The United States and Norwegian penal systems could not be more opposite from one another, according to American journalist Jessica Benko.

In Norway, the practice of capital punishment was banned in 1902 and life sentences were abolished in 1981; the maximum sentence for any crime is 21 years. In addition, unlike its American counterpart, the Norwegian correctional system is based heavily on rehabilitation.

An example is the construction of Halden Fængsel prison. Its perimeter is devoid of electric fences topped by razor wires. Nonexistent are the armed towers like those across prisons throughout the U.S.

Halden Fængsel houses some 251 of Norway’s 3,800 inmates and uses non-conventional approaches in a non-conventional setting.

Benko visited Halden Fængsel and describes the prison as “the physical expression of an entire national philosophy about the relative merits of punishment and forgiveness.

“Better out than in” is an unofficial Norwegian Correctional Service motto. In 1998, Norway’s Ministry of Justice recalculated the goals and methodology of the Correctional Service, putting forth a new approach to rehabilitation and incarceration. It included education, job training, skills development and therapy.

Norway’s criminal justice system emphasizes rehabilitation and reintegration and assisting inmates with housing and job



A look inside where prisoners are housed

placement before they are released from prison.

Benko says of Halden, “Every aspect of the facility was designed to ease psychological pressures, mitigate conflict and minimize interpersonal friction.”

In 2011, Anders Behring Breivik attacked a government building in the capitol city, which resulted in hundreds of injuries, followed by a bloody massacre at a summer camp where 77 students died.

Due to magnitude of this crime, Breivik was sentenced to “preventive detention,” which means that after 21 years his sentence can be extended by five-years. These extensions can go on indefinitely if he is determined to be a danger to public safety.

Breivik is not at Halden Fængsel; he is in a high-security wing at Ila Prison (by himself in three rooms, according to his recent biography).

There are approximately 2.2

million people incarcerated in America’s prisons. The U.S. makes up 5 percent of the world’s population, and has 25 percent of the world’s incarcerated.

In a 1967 report, *The Challenge of Crime in a Free Society*, concerns were raised about correctional facilities. “Life in many institutions is at best barren and futile, at worst unspeakably brutal and degrading...The conditions in which they live are the poorest possible preparation for their successful re-entry into society and often merely reinforce in them a pattern of manipulation and destructiveness.”

Robert Martinson, a sociology researcher at the City University of New York, authored a 1974 article in which he argues the rehabilitative effects of programs. He writes, “With few and isolated exceptions, the rehabilitative efforts that have been reported so far have had no appreciable effect on recidivism.”



Norway’s supermarket where inmates do their grocery shopping

As a result of that report, several media organizations used Martinson’s claims to discredit rehabilitation in America’s prisons. California Gov. Jerry Brown, in 1975, said of rehabilitative programs, “They don’t rehabilitate; they don’t deter; they don’t punish, and they don’t protect.”

Critics quickly challenged Martinson’s “choice to overlook the successful programs and their characteristics in favor of a broad conclusion devoid of context.” Martinson published a new report in 1979 from new analyses that adamantly retracted his earlier summation.

He states in this report, “Contrary to my previous position,

some treatment programs do have an appreciable effect on recidivism.” A 1984 Senate report demanding tougher sentencing guidelines cited Martinson’s 1974 report; however, Martinson’s retraction did not appear in the Senate report.

Norway’s Halden Fængsel, with its non-imposing architectural design and rehabilitative setting, represents a stark alternative to the retributive component in America’s criminal justice system.

Ragnar Kristoffersen, an anthropologist, quotes a verse thought to be by Dostoyevsky, “The degree of a civilization in a society can be judged by entering its prisons.”



# Pure Talent Fends Off Net Zero Comeback

By **Rahsaan Thomas**  
Sports Editor

It was close down to the final minute, but clutch free-throws boosted Pure Talent to a 61-55 victory over Net Zero in the San Quentin Intramural Basketball League.

"I knew Pure Talent was going to bring it through. We work better under pressure," said guard Javonte Mathis.

Pure Talent led the game from the first half with the awesome performances of Maurice Gipson and Jamal Green.

They dominated the boards. Gipson had 16 points, 17 rebounds, 5 blocks and a steal. Green added 16 points, 18 rebounds, 1 assist, 3 steals and a block.

"Maurice was very effective," said Pure Talent player/Coach F. "Dot.Comm" Hicks. "He had a great game."

"My coach motivated me. He told me he needs me on the boards and to get back on defense," said Maurice Gipson.

With 7:04 left on the clock, Pure Talent led by 11 after Altin Jefferson nailed a three, his only made shot of the game, making the score 48-37.

Net Zero's Tommy Nellon kept his team within striking

distance, battling Green and Gipson on the boards, racking up 15 rebounds, 14 points, 2 assists, 3 blocks and a steal.

With 2:25 until the final buzzer, (or duck call, for a prison game), Net Zero's D. "Frog" DeWitt went to the rack and scored inside on several defenders.

Then teammate Johnathan "Cee" Cannon stole the ball and took it to the rack. He missed the layup, but DeWitt was there to clean it up, leaving Net Zero down 52-51 with 2:10 until the final buzzer.

Cannon stole the ball again and passed it to DeWitt, who went up but missed the layup with 1:52 left in the game. DeWitt finished with 15 points, 7 rebounds, 5 steals and 1 assist. Cannon added 11 and 6 steals.

Gipson was fouled on the next play and hit both clutch free-throws, putting Pure Talent up 54-51.

Veteran Net Zero player Paul Oliver crashed the boards, grabbed a rebound and tipped it back in to keep the game in reach, 54-53.

With 1:11 left, both teams were in the bonus. A foul sent Hicks to the line where he made one of two.

Then Pure Talent turned up the defense to build on its 55-53 lead.

Mathis stole the ball from



Photo by Michael Nelson

Maurice Gipson boxing out Michael Tercero in a 2014 Intramural League game

a Net Zero guard and was fouled. He made one free throw, leaving his team up three. Mathis finished with 13 points.

Then Hicks stole the ball and dished it to Green for a floater, making the score 58-53. With time running out, Net Zero stopped the clock by fouling and Pure Talent in-

creased the lead from the free throw line.

Hicks led the league in scoring from May 3 - June 21 with an average of 21.75 points per game. Allen McIntosh replaced Hicks as the league high-scoring front-runner at 22.8 point per game as of the week of June 27.

Hicks played a different role

in this game. He contributed 8 points, 4 rebounds, 4 assists, 2 steals and a block from the guard position.

"It's all about my team. We have to get in there and make effective shots and rebound; that's been our focus," said Hicks. "What gets us a win is getting the whole team involved."

## Hot-Hitting S.F. Expos Down San Quentin A's, 8-4

By **Marcus Henderson**  
Journalism Guild Writer

The visiting San Francisco Expos put on a hitting exhibition to defeat the San Quentin A's 8-4.

After not playing for two weeks due to teams' scheduling issues, the A's struggled with their timing and defense.

The Expos bought their skills and sharpness from the Bay Area Men Seniors Baseball League to the Lower Yard baseball field.

"We always look forward to playing these guys. The competition helps prepare us for our games," said Expo Matt Claussen.

The Expos scored two quick runs in the second. Claussen led off with a single, when the ball bounced off the glove and shoulder of the A's shortstop.

Peter Casey belted a line drive to deep center field for a double to score Claussen.

Next Nick Tannura found a gap between left and center field for a single to score Casey for the 2-0 lead.

The Expos scored two more runs in the fourth off a walk and a single from Josh Caulfield when the bases were loaded for the 4-0 lead.

The Expos were not finished. They put up three runs in the fifth, widening the lead to 7-0.

After Casey hit another double, Alex Williams smashed a line drive to left field to score Casey.

Next Caulfield singled, setting up Brendan King, who hit a line drive to center field, but the A's fielder was playing too deep, took too much time to get to the ball and allowed two runs to score.

"This game is all about pitching and good communication. So it doesn't matter who I pitch against, be it professional or inmates, I'm going to give them my all," said Casey.

The A's scored two runs in the fifth. Cariyle "Otter" Blake hit a single and stole

second base. Cleo Cloman singled to right field.

Expos pitcher Casey walked the next two batters, which scored Blake. The A's Bilal Coleman laid down a bunt to score Cloman, making the score 7-2.

The Expos regrouped and turned a double play to get out of the inning.

The Expos added a run in the sixth for the 8-2 lead.

The A's answered with two runs to closed the gap 8-4, but that was the closest they got that day.

"It was one of those nights where a lot of things weren't going our way. This is the first time we played this team and

we didn't bring enough energy," said A's Coach John "Yah Yah" Parratt.

Steve Reichardt, A's manager, added, "Being off for those couple of weeks showed, but we should have more steady games for the rest of the season."

First-time visitor Caulfield said, "I didn't know what to expect; everybody was nice. I look forward to coming back. Those guys play hard and have some fresh gear."

Claussen added, "I just want the guys to know that they should always have love for today, but never forget about tomorrow and what they building their futures for."

## Softball Hardtimers Take Early Lead, Subdue Northbay Bombers Coed Team, 7-1

Solid hits, great catches and defense earned the Hardtimers a 7-1 victory over the Northbay Bombers, a co-ed visiting softball team.

"The Hardtimers are a very good team -- definitely very good defense," said Northbay's Brian Palozola.

The Hardtimers took the lead in the second inning. DuPriest Brown set the stage with a triple to deep center.

Angelo Ramsey banged another triple that tipped off the glove of Northbay's Kyle Dunlap near centerfield, bringing in Brown.

Hardtimer Juan Arballo singled into left field, setting up another score.

Northbay got out of the

inning down 2-0 when Joe Huang snagged Isiah Daniels' grounder before it could reach the outfield. He made the short throw to Lindsey Sakasitz, who fired to first to complete a double play.

The July 12 game was the first for Sakasitz this year. No other women members have come to any of the games this season.

"I miss coming in here. Life catches up though. Sometimes you have to put what you love to do off," said Sakasitz. "I just got married, had a daughter and I'm raising my little sister now."

She made several great plays, including doing a split in an attempt to catch a throw

and make the tag at second.

In the third inning, Hardtimer Eric Post knocked in two more runs with a triple.

Northbay scored in the top of the fifth on a sacrifice fly, making the score 4-1.

Hardtimer John "Dunnie" Windham snagged everything Northbay knocked into left field.

Northbay played good defense, too. Bottom of the sixth, Brown smashed a hard line drive directly at Randy Ferino, coach, player and organizer of the Northbay Bombers. Ferino made the catch for the out and then shook off the sting of the ball pounding his gloved hand with an audible thud.

Then Ferino made another

stop and got the ball to Brooks at second who completed the double play with a throw out at first.

The Hardtimers still slowly piled on runs, including a one RBI double by John "Hawkeye" Fleming in the bottom of the sixth.

By the top of the ninth, Northbay was down 7-1.

Palozola went up to bat with two outs and no one on base. He smacked a long fly deep into the outfield that looked like it would at least be a double. Then Angelo Ramsey ran toward the ball and dived under it to make the sliding catch.

"I had to meet it where it was going," said Ramsey.

"That was a hell of a catch," said Palozola.

The Hardtimers' coach credits the win to the pitching techniques taught to Daniels.

"He looks at where the batter stands. If the batter is close to the plate, he pitches inside. If the batter is far off the plate, he pitches outside to keep the batter off balance. That makes the batter lose power," said the Hardtimer coach.

Regardless of the outcome, Northbay enjoyed the game.

"It's a combination of competitiveness and camaraderie. They separate themselves from what's going on (in prison) and give us a good game," said Ferino.

—Rahsaan Thomas



# Mission Edges Out San Quentin Giants, 8-7

By Marcus Henderson  
Journalism Guild Writer

A controversial call ended a last-inning comeback from the San Quentin Giants, giving Mission the 8-7 win.

The Giants had the bases loaded and Rasheed Lockheart at bat with a 3-2 count. The batter watched the next pitch cross the plate and the umpire called a strike. Mission catcher Chris Powell threw out the runner on third base, who was on his way home thinking the call was a ball for the walk.

The umpire ruled both outs stand, leaving the Giants upset.

"I don't think the umpire called the strike out loud enough for the third base runner to hear it. He wouldn't have gotten off base if it was clear what the call was," said Giant Micheal "Sparky" Lain.

The Giants had come alive in the ninth, down 8-3.

Giant Rubin Harper hit a line drive past third base for a single and Angelo Mecchi flied out to right field. Troy Bird walked, setting up Calvin "CJ" Johnson, who smashed a deep ball to center field for a double, scoring Bird and Harper.



Photo by Sam Hearn

Sponsor Mike Deeble, John Appley, Mike Tyler, Christopher Williams and Nico Vargas

Now down 8-5, Mission pitcher Guibert Gaston walked the next two batters to load the bases. Mission called a time-out for a short conference on the mound.

Gaston walked in two more runs, allowing the Giants to close the gap 8-7 with the bases still loaded.

"Closing out any team is a challenge. I had some jitters, but I settled back into my mechanics. These guys are some good hitters. I enjoy being a part of

this. I want to tell the guys to keep hope alive and to remember there is life after prison," said Gaston.

Both teams had solid pitching and defense until the fifth, when Giants first baseman Damon Cooke dropped a pop-fly with two outs and bases loaded, giving Mission a run.

The error generated boos from the small group of on-lookers.

"I trucked. I'm the only guy that can get booed in prison. That's OK. I will make up for it.

That's what leaders do we take responsibility," said Cooke.

But Mission scored again for the 2-0 lead off a single from Daune Harris.

The Giants answered when Shon Ruffin belted a double to left field to score Bird, who walked earlier.

The Mission scored four more runs in the sixth for a 6-1 lead. John Nero struggled at bat all game, but came up big when he hit a line drive up the middle for a double to score two runs.

After back-to-back singles to load the bases, Abe Zuckerman stepped to the plate and found the gap between center and left field for two runs.

Mission added two more runs in the seventh for an 8-1 lead. Ruffin dropped a fly ball while falling to the ground, trying to avoid second baseman Mecchi, who was also chasing the ball.

"Too many of our guys don't have their heads in the game. For us to win, we have to fix that, but right now nobody's hitting or catching the ball," said Coach Elliot Smith.

The Giants listened and added two runs in the seventh to close the score to 8-3. With singles from Rasheed Lockheart and Harper, John Appley smashed the ball to deep left field for an easy double and the two RBIs.

The Giants defense didn't give up any more runs and it did fight its way back into the game but too many mistakes and a possible mental error cost the hosts the game.

"I really love coming here. This is an amazing baseball program and these types of games keep us on our toes. I'm going to keep coming here until I can't come no more," said Harris.

# Bittermen Earn Third Victory Over Kings

By Rahsaan Thomas  
Sports Editor

Teamwork earned the visiting Bittermen basketball squad a sweet 78-68 victory over the San Quentin Kings.

"It's amazing what we can do when we all work together and nobody cares who gets the credit. Teamwork, hustle and ball movement got us the win," said Aidan Coffino of the Bittermen. Coffino normally plays for the Trailblazers.

The Bittermen started out hot. They made crisp passes to the open man, who knocked down his shots. Will Wheatley led his team in the first quarter, which ended with the Bittermen up, 24-14.

Led by Oris "Pep" Williams, and Marvin Cosby, the Kings came charging back, taking a 31-29 lead by halftime.

From there the game was a dogfight with the lead changing back and forth until the fourth quarter. Bittermen's Tim Hall played hard, ending up on the concrete several times fighting for position and loose balls.

With eight minutes left in regulation, the score was 53-52 Bittermen. Then Bittermen Tom Tunny stole the ball, made the pass to a teammate, who made a layup inside despite being fouled. He missed the free-throw.

Then Coffino, the youngest and shortest member of his team, nailed a three, his third

of the game, making the score 58-52. Coffino is in his 20s and stands about 5-foot-6.

Just as Wheatley, the former San Francisco Rumble basketball player, went cold, Bittermen Ryan Williams came alive in the final quarter. He stole the ball after it was inbounded, went to the rack and made a hook shot while being fouled, completing the and-one with the free-throw. He scored 8 points in the last quarter for a total of 14, along with 4 steals, 3 assists and 6 rebounds.

"It was a good team effort. The team really picked me up today," said Wheatley.

The Kings' Larry "TY" Jones hit a late three-pointer, but there wasn't enough time left on the clock to complete

a comeback. Jones ended with 11 points and 8 rebounds. Oris Williams led all scorers with 21 points, 8 rebounds and 2 assists. Cosby added 14.

"They out-played us in every facet. They were more physical, and we were out-coached and out-played," said Kings Coach Orlando Harris.

Four Bittermen, in addition to Ryan Williams, scored in the double-figures. Will Wheatley dropped 19, Hall and Coffino added 11 each and Tom Tunny had 13.

"When everybody scores, we win," said Bittermen's Ted Saltviet, the only Bittermen who didn't score. "That was the strategy," he jokingly claimed while smiling after gaining his third victory this

season.

Normally, the Bittermen only win one or two games a year. This season they combined with players from a new team called the Trailblazers, including Wheatley. The combination has given the talented Kings a run for their money, which they appreciate.

"I can't sleep the night before each game. I keep waking up, looking at the clock to see if it's time yet. We appreciate ya'll coming in here," said King Charles Sylvester during a pre-game huddle with both teams and referees standing around half-court on The Lower Yard surrounded by barbwire.

"We're still trying to get a road game," he joked at the July 18 game.

# Warriors Overcome Short-Handed Imago Dei Despite Conner's 39 Points, 91-64

The San Quentin Warriors' depth and teamwork secured a 91-64 victory and overcame visiting Imago Dei's Teohn Conner's 39-point performance.

"He's a beast," said Warrior Allan McIntosh about Conner. "If they had one or two more of him on the team, we'd be in trouble."

Conner, 35, is a former semi-pro. He said he played for the S.F. Rumbles and East Bay Pit Bulls. He also played for St. Mary's, a division one college. He now coaches basketball.

"There are good people in here. On the outside, you hear different. I met a lot of good people, and it's all through basketball," said Conner.

Imago Dei came in with only six players because four were injured, including Steve Diekmann, a three-point specialist. Diekmann played for Grinnell College in Iowa when the Division 3 team led the NCAA in national scoring average. He broke his foot playing basketball



Photo by Raphaele Casale

Conner brings the ball up

mann, a three-point specialist. Diekmann played for Grinnell College in Iowa when the Division 3 team led the NCAA in national scoring average. He broke his foot playing basketball

on July 4. He also had to have surgery on his retina, said teammate Tony Thomas.

"They came in here undermanned," said Warriors coach Daniel Wright.

McIntosh set the pace early, leading the Warriors to a 10-2 start. He made three of his first four shots and dished out two assists.

"The stop and pull-up jumper is mean," said Conner about McIntosh.

At the half, the Warriors were up 45-33.

Thomas delivered a half-time message about changing God's mind with the power of prayer. He told a story of his daughter being born deaf and doctors saying she would never be able to hear. His daughter was anointed, and he prayed for her to be

granted hearing. Four months later, she was.

"Don't underestimate the power of prayer," said Thomas.

Imago Dei closed to 38-47 in the third quarter with 9:45 left on the clock.

"We kept it to within nine until we got tired, and then they ran away with it," said Iamgo's John Appel, their 6-foot-9 center.

Within nine was the closest they got as every single Warrior who suited up played in the game and scored. The Warriors finished with 24 assists and four players in double digits.

McIntosh dropped 14 with 10 boards, 3 assists and 3 steals. Montrell Vines contributed 13 including nailing 3 treys. Rafael Cuevas scored 10 points with 6 assists, going 4-4 from the field and Miguel Sifuentes came off

the bench and added 13 with 3 rebounds, 3 assists and 1 steal.

"I'm happy to show what I could do," said Sifuentes.

Imago had many open looks and made strong moves to the paint, but, except for Conner, they didn't complete the plays.

Appel scored six points with 13 boards. L.J. Wilkerson scored seven points on 3-17 shooting.

On one play, Wilkerson was on a fast break, but Warrior Jason Jones pinned his lay attempt to the backboard.

Will Willow missed every shot he took but grabbed 10 rebounds and 4 steals.

"It's frustrating doing all the right things but shots not falling," said Willow. "Good thing is that you always have another game."

-Rahsaan Thomas



# Firefighters Up for Wildfire Challenge



Photo by Eric Owens

Inmate firefighters during a tool inspection

By Krissi Khokhobashvili  
CDCR Public Information Officer

The firefighters were sitting on the ground, sweaty, dirty and tired. They had just hiked 4.2 miles along a rugged trail, the sun beating down on them as they trudged along. Each man was dressed head to toe in flame-retardant gear, lugging heavy tools and drinking water. The break was welcome, but short, and after 10 minutes they were gearing up once more, preparing for the grueling work of clearing brush for another hour.

They were all up to the challenge, and eager to put their training to the test.

Meet the inmate firefighters of the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation (CDCR), men and women selected to join CAL FIRE and local crews in battling wildfires throughout the state. CDCR's Conservation Camps program started in 1946 with the opening of Rainbow Camp in Fallbrook, and today more than 4,000 inmate firefighters work from 42 adult camps and one camp for juvenile offenders throughout

the state.

"I've learned a lot – I've learned skills here I can use when I get out," shared Mike Jones, a firefighter at Ishi Conservation Camp #18 in Tehama County. "It teaches you accountability. You get with your crew and you learn how to work together, and all different races come together and it doesn't matter."

Because inmate fire crews work in communities, inmates must meet certain criteria to be eligible. This includes not being convicted of any sexual or arson offenses, no escape history and no life sentence. Inmates accepted into the program undergo intense physical fitness and firefighter training, provided by CAL FIRE, to prepare them for their work conditions.

Each year, CAL FIRE holds the annual Preparedness Exercises at Ishi Camp, where nearly 50 inmate fire crews undergo drills on safety, physical conditioning and firefighting knowledge. Throughout the day, crews are tested on their knowledge of tools, ability to deploy emergency shelters and their physical ability, culminating in the 4.2-

mile hike and brush-clearing exercise.

The crews are also tested on safety, from wearing the appropriate gear to packing enough drinking water. While the crews are expected to complete the hike within 75 minutes, they must also take care not to over-exert themselves.

"You can't do the hike too quickly, because then you get penalized," explained CDCR Lt. Dan Billeci, who works at Trinity River Conservation Camp #3 in Lewiston. "If you hike it too fast, you're going to be exhausted by the time it's time to start cutting line for the fire. So there has to be a happy medium."

During a fire, inmate crews are primarily tasked with clearing brush to stop the flames from spreading. Crews use picks, shovels, axes and chainsaws to tear intensely flammable brush down to bare mineral soil, fighting the clock as flames spread.

"Without these guys out there cutting that line, a lot of fires would get a lot bigger," observed CAL FIRE Capt. Tim Rader. "They go into areas that nobody else wants to go into, or that dozers are not able to get into. With-



Photo by Eric Owens

Each inmate on the fire line has a responsibility, from cutting down brush to clearing the line of debris

out them, these fires would not stop."

Rader, who has been working with inmate crews for six years, said when the men and women first arrive at camp, it's often the first time they've ever seen the woods. Training begins with getting crews acclimated to being outdoors and exercising, beginning with short hikes and working up to longer treks.

In the classroom, inmate firefighters learn the terminology of the trade, how to stay safe on the job, first aid, map reading and fire behavior, followed by 29 hours of field training in tools, fire shelters, mop-up and fitness. Inmate firefighters are paid for their work, and earn extra credit for time served when on the fire line.

"It's very helpful to have the crews there assisting us," said Fire Prevention Specialist Cheryl Buliavac. "The manpower that they bring is unbelievable — the hard work, just having them there to help with cutting a hand line, getting the brush clear so the firefighters can get the hose in."

"The crews are really motivated," Buliavac added. "They take a lot of pride in their work."

When not fighting fires, inmate fire crews participate in community service and conservation projects such as clearing

fire breaks, restoring historical structures, park maintenance, sand-bagging and flood protection and clearing fallen trees and debris. This work, combined with manpower on the fire lines, saves California taxpayers millions of dollars each year.

"They're the backbone of our department when we get to our large incidents, because as the incidents grow it takes a huge workforce," said Dave Russell, CAL FIRE Division Chief at Ishi Camp.

Robert Shelton, a firefighter at Intermountain Conservation Camp #22 in Lassen County, said that for him, fighting fires and doing service projects is a chance to give back.

"I've been a liability for a lot of years, and it finally feels good to give something back to the community and improve myself," he shared.

Shelton commented on the brotherhood of camp, where racial and social backgrounds fall away. Living and working together, the firefighters become a family of sorts, relying on one another to get the job done.

"You get to work together a team, and it's no longer Black, White or Mexican," he said. "It's all one unity. You're just one orange caterpillar and you have to work together to get up the mountain."

## ‘Keeping it Real’ With Gangster Rap

By Rahsaan Thomas  
Staff Writer

Why isn't gangster rap music viewed simply as entertainment? In a discussion about why gangster rap has such a harmful impact on the identities of young men, the Yard Talk panel considered artists' self-imposed need to "keep it real."

Eric Curtis: "In the early '80s there was positive rap; people spoke with messages about how we can make things better. It just went bad when Mix Master Spade and Master Tee's *Batter Ram* came out. It was about drugs and armored vehicles ... was it the industry or the rappers that brought about this shift?"

Some argue that rapping about violence is fine for entertainment purposes. However, the danger is when people follow the music literally and buy into the violence.

Antwan Williams: "If you ain't a gangster, you can't rap about it."

John "Yahya" Johnson: "Rappers claim they are getting legal and illegal money...it's synonymous with the question, Are you really doing this? If so, for what reason? You have clothing lines, why sell drugs?"

Author Michael Eric Dyson talks about the issue of rappers' self-imposed need to be authentic in an interview with Meta DuEwa Jones. (Hip-Hop Music and Culture)

Dyson said, "The intellectual merit of hip-hop artists is not on par with artists of other fields. Nobody thinks Arnold Schwarzenegger or Bruce Willis or Sylvester Stallone literally engages in the behavior they act on screen."

Many on the panel agreed that rappers' self-imposed need to appear authentic translates into fans trying to be just like the artists they adore – carrying guns, selling drugs and driving fancy cars.

Johnson: "Some rappers are giving a voice to people who do



Photo by Sam Hearn

Demond Lewis

live like that and are glorifying them. Look at all the rappers who are gang affiliates."

Demond Lewis: "Nobody is teaching the kids that what you see in rap videos isn't real. How come we aren't holding rappers accountable for the lies they're telling? They put extras in their videos like rented cars and guns, but that's not the life they really live or a life that is really worth living. You definitely can't go around shooting people. That's a fantasy I got a real 109-years-to-life in prison for."



Photo by Sam Hearn

John "Yahya" Johnson

Johnson: "During the 'free love era,' hippies braided their hair and wore no shoes. The difference is that they were able to say 'it's time for a paradigm shift, time to clean ourselves up and get into corporate America.' We are doing things that are almost irreversible."

Lewis: "No matter where you go, the ghetto is the ghetto – lights out, tennis shoes hanging from power cords – and we put it out there like we proud of that. If you are proud of being from nowhere, then you won't strive

to go anywhere."

Johnson: "The ghetto can't be my role model. The industry is supposed to show Jay-Z helping kids in school instead of glorifying the projects. Racism is being reinforced through entertainment and politics."

The panel concluded that mainstream rap music motivates a criminal mentality. Gangster rap portrays itself as the only way of life available for inner city youth, and that being a hooligan from the ghetto is something to aspire to. In following gangster rap music's directions, listeners who take the genre literally end up making permanent mistakes, like catching a felony charge, killing someone or getting tattoos on their face. Why is mainstream radio promoting this negativity?

In part four, the panel will discuss the effect that money has on the direction of rap music.

-Trenise Ferreira contributed to this story



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## Legionnaires' Outbreak Strikes San Quentin

By Juan Haines,  
Kevin D. Sawyer and  
James Abernathy Jr.

When officials confirmed a case of Legionnaires' disease at San Quentin State Prison mid-day on Thursday, Aug. 27, the warden ordered an institution-wide lock-down, during which inmates were confined overnight in their cells without running water or access to flushing toilets.

Around 1,400 inmates in North and West Blocks went without drinking water or use of portable toilets until the following morning, at least 14 hours after the initial lock-down. With their toilets unable to flush due to the lack of running water, inmates reported being forced to stay in their cells with the stench of human excrement throughout the night.

North and West Block each house about 700 inmates, who are paired in 6-by-9 foot cells



Photo by Lt. Robinson

Water truck parked on Lower Yard was brought in to provide clean shower water for inmates



Photo by Lt. Robinson

Trailers with portable showers occupied the Lower Yard basketball court for more than a week

originally designed for one person.

Jamal Lewis, vice chairman of the Men's Advisory Council, called the first night of the lock-down "the worst night in my 24

years of incarceration."

Normal prison operations ground to a halt and did not resume until 12 days after the first case was confirmed, as prison officials sought to bring the re-

spiratory disease under control.

Inmate Harry "ATL" Smith said he witnessed people getting sick in H-Unit, which are dorms that houses about 500 inmates in five buildings. "The lockdown,

the water shortage, the lack of food and this disease making the national news... that's when this whole thing got real to me,"

See *Legionnaires'* on Pg. 4

## GED Preparation Class Transforms Prisoners' Lives

At 19 years old, high school dropout LaDelle Jackson committed a minor felony and spent two years in state prison. Jackson said his prison experience hardened his criminal thinking, making him more dangerous when he was released at age 22.

"In prison I was running around with my homeboys, using alcohol and drugs," said the now 42-year-old Jackson. "I didn't want to let go of the negative behavior that kept me from

benefiting from rehabilitative services."

Jackson said his recklessness and illegal activities on the streets caused someone's death. In 1996 he headed back to prison with a sentence of 15 years-to-life for second degree murder.

Each year, more than 700,000 people are released from state and federal prisons. Within

See *GEDs* on Page 5



Photo by Leroy Lucas

Peer Educators: Miguel Quezada, Todd Williams, Bryn Starbird, GED graduate Eusebio Gonzalez, and Ellen Dahlke

## Juvenile Offenders Raise \$8,000 To Help Youths

By John Lam  
Journalism Guild Writer

A group of juvenile offenders in San Quentin has raised almost \$8,000 to help youths outside the prison.

The prison's Kid CAT organization raised \$7,989.24 in a food sale to aid Special Olympics and the Terrance Kelly Youth Foundation.

I think it's a great partnership for Kid CAT and the Terrance Kelly Youth Foundation," said Ernest Pulliam, a former correctional officer, supporter of T.K.Y. Foundation and Kid CAT volunteer. "The foundation will use the money for after-school programs for youths in Richmond by teaching computer literacy as well as providing men-

See *\$8,000* on Page 16



## CHOOSE1 Proposes Initiative To Reform Three Strikes Law

By Forrest Jones  
Contributing Writer

A petition for an initiative proposing major changes in California's Three Strikes law has been filed.

The proposed initiative was received on Sept. 16 by the state Attorney General's Office from a nonprofit, grassroots organization called CHOOSE1.

It is entitled: "The Three Strikes Rehabilitation and Reform Act of 2016."

Supporters would need to collect 500,000 valid voter signatures to be placed on the November 2016 ballot.

The biggest changes in the law would be:

1. Convictions prior to March 7, 1994, would not count as strikes.

2. Penal Code would be changed to say that the purpose of prison is not just punishment but also to rehabilitate.

3. It would define strikeable burglaries as when, "...it is charged and proved that another person, other than an accomplice, was present in the residence during the commission of the burglary."

4. Criminal threats would no longer be a serious felony.

The initiative prevents sec-

ond-strikers from applying for re-sentencing.

Those who qualify for re-sentencing will be able to petition a judge to commute their life terms to non-life sentences.

The court may consider the person's criminal conviction history, including the type of crimes committed, the extent of injury to victims, the length of prior prison commitments and remoteness of the crimes.

However, the court can deny the person's re-sentencing if it rules the petitioner would pose an unreasonable risk of danger

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San Quentin News strives to report on forward thinking approaches in criminal justice policies that support positive changes in prisoner behavior, particularly through rehabilitative efforts.



Prisoners United in the Craft of Journalism  
In collaboration with students from the



### We Want To Hear From You!

The San Quentin News encourages inmates, free staff, custody staff, volunteers and others outside the institution to submit articles. All submissions become property of the San Quentin News. Please use the following criteria when submitting:

- Limit your articles to no more than 350 words.
- Know that articles will be edited for content and length.
- The newspaper is not a medium to file grievances. (For that, use the prison appeals process.) We encourage submitting articles that are newsworthy and encompass issues that will have an impact on the prison populace.
- Please do not use offensive language in your submissions.
- Poems and art work (cartoons and drawings) are welcomed.
- Letters to the editor should be short and to the point.

Send Submissions to:

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Education Dept. / S.Q. News  
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# Amanda Howell Departs From San Quentin

By Phoeun You  
Graphic Designer

Amanda Howell, inside coordinator for the Prison University Project (PUP), has left the non-profit organization that provides Associate of Arts degrees at San Quentin to pursue her own academic goals.

Howell impacted hundreds of students' lives through her work as a PUP volunteer before becoming a full-time staff member. However, Howell said she didn't anticipate how much her own life would be impacted.

In 2011, Howell first ventured inside San Quentin as a volunteer English tutor. She had been uncertain about this decision. "I was conflicted because I was working several jobs and applying for school at the time," said Howell.



Photo by Sam Hearnes

PUP's inside coordinator Amanda Howell

Howell's views changed when she met PUP's executive director, Dr. Jody Lewen, in volunteer training in November 2010. "She is the only person I know that can talk for hours and keep you interested," said Howell.

Prior to PUP, Howell's career was headed toward the music industry. "Music is definitely one of my passions. I've been around music all my life; my parents were musicians," said Howell. She once worked as a management assistant with the Neville brothers and the Sierra Leone Refugee All-Stars.

In 2008, the music industry took an economic downturn and she was laid off. "I took it as an opportunity to move on." Her positive outlook led her back to what she originally wanted to do — which was to get into public policy and criminal justice.

Fortunately, PUP provided an opportunity for Howell to create change. "Everyone deserves high quality of education. It's a human right," said Howell.

Howell gained a greater appreciation for her students as she witnessed them overcome life difficulties. "You don't know what you will do until you are placed in certain situations — the negative things like making poor choices and bad decisions. The students I work with here are by far the most motivated students I've ever worked with.

"I'm amazed at the resilience of students, like their efforts to earn a degree. It's incredible and inspiring to be there and see people's family and friends come and support the graduates."

The students also appreciate Howell's efforts to keep PUP operating efficiently. "I have the utmost respect for her work ethic and the way she carries herself," said recent graduate Sa Tran.

"Amanda has been my direct supervisor since I came to work for PUP, and she has been a great boss. In everything she does, it's obvious that she cares about the students," said inmate Tommy Winfrey.

Raised in Pasadena, Howell majored in Mass Communications at the University of California at Berkeley. In her four

and a half years working inside San Quentin, Howell admits that it was tough being away from her mom, Barbara Bolan. "It's been a journey for her too," said Howell, who is an only child.

Howell's father, Dan, passed away when she was 13. Her father's sudden death forced Howell to become more independent and gain "inner strength." "You can do anything; you just can't do everything," said Howell reflecting on her father's advice. She adds, "I want to uphold his legacy, one that he would be proud of."

When Howell's family is not around, she feels supported by the PUP staff. "We're doing a unique job. My co-workers have become a family. They understand so much. We know each other so well that it's like we have our own language at this point. This job would be impossible to do without people to rely on." Howell adds, "There are over 350 students and everyone has different needs, so we have to rely on each other. So that's

what makes it so hard to leave — this is family."

As Howell's time at San Quentin comes to an end, the experience gained through PUP has shaped her outlook on life. "My entire trajectory in life has been impacted by this. It completely changed what I want to do in life," said Howell. She plans to focus her career on re-entry and transitional housing.

Reflecting on inmates' re-entry problems, she said, "People go into housing and the decks are stacked — they are way in the middle of nowhere. How can we expect people to strive when they are sharing a tiny space, being moved from place to place, living in a community where schools are failing and lack economic stability?"

"There has to be a better way. Rent is being driven up so high that people are being forced out of their own community. These are some of the things that led me into the field where I'm looking to go."

—Richard Richardson  
contributed to this story



Photo by Leroy Lucas

Amanda Howell, Keung Vanh, and Kara Urion at the 2015 Prison University Project graduation



# Mentally Ill Inmates Lack Access to Treatment

By **Juan Haines**  
Managing Editor

Inmates suffering severe mental disorders are being denied timely access to inpatient treatment, according to a former chief psychiatrist and medical director at San Quentin State Prison.

Dr. Christopher S. Wadsworth filed a lawsuit in May against the California prison system alleging that the inpatient care at San Quentin is “clinically irresponsible” and deprives inmate-patients of their constitutional rights.

The suit takes issue with patient care facilitated by Eric Monthei, San Quentin’s mental health chief. Specifically, it criticizes a 2014 program that placed 10 Death Row inmates in a 17-bed crisis unit at San Quentin’s health care facility.

This displaced other patients struggling with severe mental illness, Wadsworth said. The lawsuit claims that Monthei’s program was responding to a 2013 court order that San Quentin address the mental health needs of its Death Row inmates.

The program forced some highly suicidal inmates into holding cells that inadequately suited their needs, Wadsworth stated. Dozens of these inmates were kept in overflow cells for periods exceeding four days, violating court agreements, the lawsuit claims. It further alleges that these displaced inmates required round-the-clock nurses until they were properly placed into an adequate inpatient treatment setting.

Wadsworth’s suit alleges that some inmates were transferred to “distant institutions,” such as

High Desert State Prison (301 miles), Pelican Bay State Prison (349 miles), California State Prison, Los Angeles County (364 miles) and California Institution for Men (422 miles).

“Without Monthei’s non-clinical instruction, these unnecessary transfers would not have endangered the patients, staff, and put the public at risk by these patients, many of whom were suffering from acute episodes of psychotic illness,” the lawsuit reads. “These patients belonged in hospital beds located at SQSP, not on our public

roadways.” The lawsuit details the stories of some of the displaced prisoners, including a patient who allegedly was transported incorrectly and unnecessarily to Corcoran State Prison.

In another instance, a team of officers forcefully extracted a severely psychotic inmate from his cell after he failed to comply with his transfer to an overflow cell. According to the lawsuit, following this incident, the patient’s psychiatrist wrote, “This violent extraction was avoidable and predictable since this

patient should have been admitted into (an) inpatient acute care treatment room, which are specially designed to be safe for patients in acute distress.”

Wadsworth, who is still employed at San Quentin, called prison officials’ actions “inconsistent with well-established court orders and laws designed to remedy the ongoing constitutional inadequacy of California’s prison healthcare.” His current capacity was unclear.

As of this newspaper’s deadline, prison officials had not responded to the lawsuit.

## New L.A. Police Unit To Combat Crime Surge



File photo

Mayor Eric Garcetti responds to gang activity

By **Charles David Henry**  
Journalism Guild Writer

A squad of hard-charging law enforcement officers has been cut loose to quell a crime surge in the City of Los Angeles.

Deploying the Los Angeles Police Department’s elite Metropolitan Division to these hot spots to combat the gang activity is one of several initiatives city officials said they intend to implement.

Mayor Eric Garcetti said 125 officers have been added to the squad with 75 more officers expected to join the ranks by September, the *Los Angeles Times* reported.

“Los Angeles recorded a 12.7 percent increase in overall crime, ending more than a decade of declines and raising concerns about what more officials can do to reverse the trend,” said reporters from the *Times*.

Local officials including Police Chief Charlie Beck attribute this activity to gang violence, rising homelessness and downgrading theft and drug felonies to misdemeanors.

Garcetti told the press, “This is bad news ... any uptick in crime is unacceptable.”

The surge in crime largely occurred in the LAPD’s Central Division. This part of the city’s district includes downtown, Chinatown and skid row.

Violent offenses in the Central Division rose 67 percent, the *Times* reported. The major-

ity of these offenses include aggravated assaults and robberies. Property crimes have increased to 26 percent.

The mayor’s keynote speech during his State of the City address was public safety. With this new political hot potato boiling, he’s under tremendous pressure to report declining crime on his watch, the *Times* said.

Police Chief Beck takes this crime surge personally. “I’ve spent 40 years of my life trying to keep this city safe, and even though it is safer than in all of those 40 years, I still worry about this.”

Neighborhood council leaders in the areas most affected by this surge are complaining about the spike in crime. Many of the residents are concerned about the street attacks because “it doesn’t seem to be safe as it was a year ago,” said Patti Berman.

Jan Handal, chairman of the West Los Angeles Neighborhood Council, said he hears from his neighbors about the home burglaries, car break-ins and automobile theft. Property crimes have increased more than 21 percent in this area of the city.

Gang violence has also perpetuated this new surge, the *Times* reports. Chief Beck said the number of gang-related shootings rose to 409 from 307. Despite these acts of violence, homicides were down 6.7 percent.

By **Marcus Henderson**  
Journalism Guild Writer

California is cutting back on disciplinary school suspensions, but African-American students remain the highest number removed from classrooms, the *Los Angeles Daily News* reports.

Statewide, suspensions were cut by 15.2 percent during the 2013-2014 school year, state data showed.

In Los Angeles, African-American students received 32.3 percent suspensions last year, but make up only 9.16 percent of the entire student body, according to data released by the California Department of Education.

“The litmus test for this is not just whether it’s on a downward trend, but more specifically, how the discrimination playing out for Black youths,” said Manuel Criollo of the Community Rights Campaign. “That has to be one of the main goals in all of this work to end the school-to-prison pipeline.”

The Los Angeles Unified School District banned suspensions for willful defiance in May 2013. The reforms for disciplinary policies and restorative justice

were presented by Criollo’s group and a coalition of other community groups.

The district issued 2,061 fewer suspensions for behavior such as being out of uniform or refusing to take off a hat.

Public Counsel attorney Ruth Cusick said, the board action, which made national headlines when it passed, should have banned suspensions for both willful defiance and disruptions.

Cusick added that district administrators and LAUSD’s charter schools still suspended 1,628 students through their own interpretation of the policy’s wording.

Isabel Villalobos, the district’s discipline coordinator, said, the policy, as passed, has been correctly enforced. Suspensions for disruptive behavior can only be issued by an administrator for actions that affect an entire campus, such as a bomb threat.

Cusick said the district-wide data mask even more disturbing disparities at individual schools, where African-Americans students miss a great deal of class time due to suspensions.

Assistant Superintendent Earl Perkins adds that the district

cannot make its 231 independent charter schools end suspensions for willful defiance. The district only has the authority to ensure compliance with discipline policies at 54 so-called “affiliated charters.”

The district found 25 campuses with the most disproportionate suspension rates involving African-American students and the disabled.

Perkins said support staff was hired and stationed at each campus to enforce restorative justice policies.

Out of 947 schools, 150 campuses receive restorative justice training each year consisting of intervention methods less severe than suspension through counseling and other tactics before suspensions.

The district said it will train the additional campuses each year until all schools’ staff are in compliance with the discipline policies.

Targeting individual campuses is key, said Cusick. “It’s definitely important to make decreases in suspensions, overall, but in terms of addressing the racial harm being done to students, we need targeted support at our schools.”

## Collaboration Needed Between Police And Community to Help Public Safety

*‘Police leaders with their powerful collective voice should actively call attention to what needs to be changed’*

By **Anouthinh Pangthong**  
Journalism Guild Writer

Communities and police need to improve communication to overcome deep-seated racial divides, a Harvard University study concludes.

“Police leaders with their powerful collective voice should actively call attention to what needs to be changed,” the June 2015 study stated.

The National Institute of Justice and the Harvard Kennedy School collaborated to help find resolutions to issues law enforcement encounter daily regarding race and policing.

Resolving issues of race in policing is not that of police alone, the report says. It adds, “Police need to be supported by policies that address conditions causing

criminality and disorder to be concentrated in particular places, especially in communities of color. And police strategies must expand freedom and justice, not just provide safety.”

Law enforcement can improve race relations by engaging the community and managing police organizations. The report calls for officers to have a more active role in the community they serve, like learning the history of the communities they patrol.

“Police should develop the habit of explaining what they are doing whenever they act,” the study adds. By doing so, this dispels the cloud of suspicion looming over a controversial department. Another suggestion is that patrol supervisors frequently evaluate how people

contacted by officers feel about their encounter.

Departmental managing would require “protection of human rights” in all aspects of policing. This includes the use of proactive language and attitudes.

The report suggests, “Supervisors at all levels must never tolerate attitudes (often revealed in denigrating language) that excuse differential treatment of particular groups, such as ‘We have to be tough with those people’ and ‘Those people only respect force.’”

The recommendations are the result of an “executive session on policing and public policy.” The 31 participants included representatives of universities, law enforcement and medical experts.



# Recidivism, Prison Glut Prompt New Thinking

By **Juan Haines**  
Managing Editor

Many states are re-thinking their criminal justice policies because of high recidivism rates and public opinion polls showing that a growing prison population has yielded insufficient public safety returns, according to the *Vera Institute of Justice*.

In 2013, 35 states passed at least 85 bills aimed at reducing prison populations and costs; supporting community-based corrections; using risk and needs assessments; assisting newly returned citizens to the community; and using data-driven research more effectively in criminal justice policy, *Vera* reports.

Between 2006 and 2012, the total U.S. prison population fell

for the third consecutive year. New York, New Jersey, Connecticut, Hawaii, Michigan and California reported double-digit reductions.

California's reductions were prompted by a 2011 U.S. Supreme Court order, capping its 34 California prisons at 137.5 percent of designed capacity.

On November 2012, voters passed Proposition 36, which revised the state's Three-Strikes Law. The proposition allowed the re-sentencing and release of approximately 2,111 qualifying inmates whose third strike was not serious or violent.

On Nov. 4, 2014, voters passed Proposition 47, which requires misdemeanor rather than felony sentencing for certain property and drug crimes

and permits inmates previously sentenced for these re-classified crimes to petition for re-sentencing. Approximately 4,420 inmates have been released under the proposition.

The California Legislature passed a bill that allows inmates whose crimes were committed as minors to appear before the parole board to demonstrate their suitability for release after serving at least 15 years of their sentence.

From Jan. 1, 2014, through June 30, 2015, the board held 717 youth offender hearings, resulting in 204 grants, 440 denials, 71 stipulations to unsuitability, and two split votes that required referral to the full board for further consideration.

In June, 413 inmates were released as a result of a court-

ordered good-time credit increases. These inmates earned an average of 110.8 days of additional credit.

Since April 2014, about 2,600 inmates have been released as a result of credit-earning measures.

From Jan. 1 through June 30, some 2,117 non-violent second-strike inmates were referred to the board for review for parole.

The board approved 480 inmates for release and denied release to 472 inmates, while the remainder are pending review.

From Feb. 11, 2014, through June 30, 2015, the board has held 767 hearings for inmates eligible for elderly parole, resulting in 255 grants, 485 denials, 55 stipulations to unsuitability and two split votes that required referral to the full board.

California prison officials report that as of July 15, the 34 state prisons were operating at 3.1 percent (2,554 inmates) below the population cap.

However, prison officials report that the cap was met in part by transferring 2,339 inmates to an in-state private prison in California City. Additionally, 7,277 prisoners doing time under California law are being housed in private prisons out of state.

*The Pew Charitable Trust* reports that the California inmate population is projected to increase by seven percent by 2018.

Other states projected to increase their prison population are Iowa and Wyoming. Hawaii, Pennsylvania and Louisiana are projected to decrease their prison population.

# Legionnaires' Disease Causes S.Q. Water Shut-Off

*Continued from Page 1*

he said. "I immediately had to kick into survival mode to make ends meet."

All told, approximately 100 inmates who presented symptoms were tested and treated. In addition, at least four members of the prison staff reportedly became ill. At least seven inmates were hospitalized.

The Legionnaires' outbreak was one of the biggest public health emergencies the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation has ever handled, according to Lt. S. Robinson, San Quentin Public Information Officer.

"There have been other emergencies in California prisons such as, norovirus, chicken pox, valley fever and other communicable diseases," Robinson said. "As with the other outbreaks, there has been a collaborative effort between the California Receiver's office, CDCR and state and local public health departments to address the issues relevant to the San Quentin situation."

According to prison officials, the source of the disease was the cooling towers atop the new health care facility building, which was built in 2010 for \$136 million.

Legionnaires' is a bacterial form of pneumonia that poses a significant threat to the elderly and those with weak immune systems, and can be deadly if left untreated. The *Legionella* bacteria is transmitted through water mist, such as through showers and air-conditioning systems.

Flatbed trucks began hauling two black heavy-duty plastic containers holding 2,000 gallons of water each into the prison by 11:25 p.m. Aug. 27.

Many West Block inmates, however, said they were kept locked in their cells and did not receive water that night.

During the night and the following morning, inmates began screaming and banging in their cells, calling for drinking water and use of portable toilets.

Beginning the morning of Aug. 28, prison officials and inmates filled large containers

with water from the 2,000 gallon containers and then transported them to inmates so they could fill their own bottles.

The only inmates who received bottled water initially were men on Death Row, the Adjustment Center, Administrative Segregation and some mainline inmates designated as medically necessary, critical workers, such as kitchen workers and support services.

"Associate Warden Kelly Mitchell came into North Block early on the day following the lock-down and addressed the inmates' lack of access to toilet facilities and water," said Men's Advisory Council Chairman (MAC), Sam Johnson.

"She came back to double-check that her orders were being carried out by staff, in which they were not being carried out in full," Johnson said. "So she again issued corrective orders to get us adequate access to toilet facilities and water. She listens to inmates and follows through with what she says."

H-Unit inmate Tony Garcia said he went many hours without drinking water. Even after the administration announced the availability of potable water around 11 p.m. that night, "that water was gone in a matter of moments because so many people were thirsty from not drinking water," Garcia said.

The outbreak also severely compromised inmates' access to showers and hot meals.

According to lock-down procedures, inmates are entitled to a shower every 72 hours, but some West Block inmates reported going without a shower for five days, despite the presence of portable showers on-site by Sept. 1.

As a precaution against the disease, filtered showerheads were installed in North and West Block. Installing filtered showerheads reduced the total number of showers in North and West Block from 46 to 20 for approximately 1,400 inmates. The reduction in shower access further exacerbated a previous restriction, enacted because of the state's drought that limited inmates to three showers per week. By Sept. 16 all 46 shower

heads were re-installed.

The prison's kitchen staff was prohibited from using water for cooking. North Block inmate J. "Huggie" Davis said the kitchen staff worked alongside inmates to prepare thousands of bagged lunches for the San Quentin population. For the six days following the first confirmed case, all inmates were served Pop-Tarts for breakfast and peanut-butter-and-jelly sandwiches for lunch and dinner.

"It took too long to get water to us," said North Block inmate Roosevelt "Askari" Johnson. "Two men in a one-man cell without running water is inhumane, and getting sack lunches for seven days is totally unhealthy."

"They're killin' us with peanut-butter-and-jelly sandwiches," said West Block inmate Charles Reece.

Inmates criticized the prison's response to the outbreak, noting that there seems to be no emergency response in place. According to published prison regulations, "Each warden must have in effect at all times an Emergency Operations Plan, approved by the Emergency Planning and Management Unit, to assist in the preparations for response to and recovery from 'All Hazards' incidents."

"This institution just passed the American Correctional Association (ACA) inspection, so there should have been standards set," said MAC Chairman Johnson. "This institution should have been prepared for this type of emergency."

ACA say its accreditation is only given after a visiting committee endorses an institution that shows compliance with its more than 500 standards, such as conditions of confinement, staff training, policy and procedure, continuity of care and health care needs.

Compliance is proven three ways: review of standard files, interviews with staff and inmates, and touring the facility.

According to the ACA, their purpose is to "promote improvement in the management of correctional agencies through an accreditation program," and to "offer CDCR the

opportunity to evaluate their operations against national standards, remedy deficiencies, and upgrade the quality of correctional programs and services."

"We believe that we have comprehensive emergency operations in place to deal with any number of emergencies," Lt. Robinson said. "These procedures were in place well before the ACA inspection and accreditation; and so we were already prepared whether it be an earthquake or some other natural disaster, or public health issue. Our protocols have been established with a lot of forethought and planning. And, with this particular issue, although the dynamics were consistently evolving, we stuck to the plan, collaborated with interested parties and ultimately prevented potential casualties with our response. Even Steve Fama from the Prison Law Office who toured the facility indicated that our response was appropriate."

"This is an old prison and possibly the maintenance isn't kept up," said Pete Brooke, a North Block inmate. "There should be a set time where maintenance comes through and does periodic checks and cleaning. For instance, for at least six months there's been a dead bird in the vent where the correctional officers sit, and there's a pipe in the shower area that leaked for about a good month before it was fixed."

In addition to concerns about the prison's emergency preparedness and response to the outbreak, inmates said that local news coverage of the prison's response downplayed the troubles.

"[The administration] lied to Channel 5 News (KPIX) about bottled water. Nobody on the mainline had received bottled water," said West Block inmate Russell Bowden.

Bowden, among others, claimed that prison staff consumed the bottled water that was allegedly set aside for inmates.

North Block inmate John "Yahya" Johnson saw a KRON4 segment on Aug. 29 which reported that inmates had access

to hot food. Another news segment purported that the CDCR was trucking in hot food. However, Johnson said he had not received a hot meal until Sept. 4.

"There are too many inconsistencies about information we're being told concerning the Legionnaires' disease," said H-Unit inmate Gerald Marquez.

H-Unit inmate Al Garner said that, after suffering a constant cough since June, he felt particularly vulnerable to the outbreak. "When the Legionnaire's crisis came about, I felt that I actually had the disease," Garner said. "So after 20 days of antibiotics, three inhalers, a five-day course of prednisone, two X-rays, the full gamut of lab tests, two days spent at Marin General Hospital, I felt like I was a human experiment. Yet still, after all these procedures, my cough is yet to be diagnosed."

"This situation has increased my stress level because I am under three months to my release, and I do not want to take this disease home with me," Garner added.

Sam Johnson said that this incident was the first time disease caused a prolonged lock-down in the 17 years he has lived at San Quentin. The incident most similar to the Legionnaires' outbreak, he said, was when norovirus hit the prison several years ago and the institution was quarantined.

The outbreak came less than a week after the prison hosted the nation's largest health fair inside of a state prison. The 12<sup>th</sup> Annual TRUST/Centerforce Health Fair was conducted in conjunction with the Alameda County Health Department and the Bay Area Black Nurses Association.

This summer, 12 people in the South Bronx died and more than 115 people were hospitalized after contracting Legionnaires' disease, according to the New York City health department. All the dead were adults with underlying medical conditions. In Illinois, four persons in a veteran's home died of the disease.

—*Rahsaan Thomas contributed to this story*



# Immigrants Settle Across America

By **Isaiah Thompson-Bonilla**  
Journalism Guild Writer

Foreign-born immigrants are finding non-traditional territories to settle in, which is helping to stabilize the population in middle America, where the population of native-born Americans is in decline, a Pew study concludes.

The median age in the United States is rising with Americans living longer and having fewer children than in recent decades, *The Pew Charitable Trusts'* December 2014 study says.

Statistics showed that the gap between citizens 65 and older and the working age citizens ages 24 to 64 is closing. This is an issue that presents a potential problem for the American la-

bor force, especially in middle America, Pew said.

*“93 percent of nearly all the working age population in America will be immigrants; this includes their U.S.-born children”*

However, the influx of immigrant migration to middle America has helped to address the issue of an aging workforce.

The 12-page brief also noted that the U.S. population's size and makeup is an important aspect of the potential growth of economic production, to include taxes and spending.

With immigrants mitigating the working age population, the PEW Research Center has determined that by 2050, 93 percent of nearly all the working age population in America will be immigrants; this includes their U.S.-born children.

States such as California, Florida, Texas, New Jersey and New York are traditional hubs for incoming immigrants. These states have experienced a substantial increase in foreign-born adding to the population. The numbers have grown since 1990. From 1990 to 2012, the foreign-

born population from ages 18 and older increased by 19.3 million or 109 percent from 17.7 million in 1990 to 37 million in 2012, the report said.

The increase of the foreign-born population was mirrored in other parts of the country. However, the native-born population in middle America decreased. The overall numbers declined for immigrants in Maine, western Pennsylvania, West Virginia, eastern Ohio and others. The decline was due to the exodus and a higher death than birth rate.

Along the Mississippi River, the southern part of Arkansas and into western Mississippi these facts could not have been more evident, as the Pew's statistics indicated in the report.

The document also reported that “approximately two-thirds of counties in North Dakota, Kansas and Nebraska experienced some decline in their native population; those counties had an average decline of 12 percent.”

The states where the native population grew were the traditional locations in which immigrants were received. The growth helped to drive the population increase in non-traditional states and locations. For example California's and New Jersey's immigrant population growth helped states in the southeastern and mountain states increase their population as these regions became a new destination for immigrants and foreign-born immigrants.

## Inmigrantes se Establecen en Los Estados Unidos

Por **Isaiah Thompson-Bonilla**  
Escritor Del Gremio Periodístico

Inmigrantes nacidos en el extranjero están encontrando territorios no tradicionales para instalarse, la cual esta ayudando a estabilizar la población central de América, donde la población de americanos nativos está en decadencia, concluye un estudio del Pew.

La edad mediana en los Estados Unidos esta aumentando debido a que mas americanos están viviendo mas de lo usual y teniendo menos hijos que en décadas recientes, dijo el estudio del *The Pew Charitable Trusts'* en Diciembre del 2014.

Estadísticas demostraron que la distancia entre los ciudadanos de 65 años y mayores y los

ciudadanos que pertenecen a la edad laboral, edades entre 24 y 64, se esta reduciendo. Este es un asunto que presenta un posible problema para la fuerza laboral americana, especialmente en la región central de América, dijo el Pew.

Sin embargo, la afluencia de emigración de inmigrantes en la región central de América ha ayudado a tratar el asunto de una fuerza laboral que envejece. El informe de 12 páginas también señala que la formación y tamaño de la población de EE.UU. son un aspecto importante del posible crecimiento de la producción económica al incluir los impuestos y los gastos.

Con inmigrantes ayudando a la población de edad laboral, el PEW Research Center, ha de-

terminado que para el 2050, el 93% de casi toda la población de edad laboral en América serán inmigrantes; incluyendo sus hijos nacidos en los Estados Unidos.

Estados tales como California, Florida, Texas, New Jersey, y New York son ejes tradicionales para la llegada de inmigrantes. Estos estados han experimentado un aumento substancial con la adición de inmigrantes nacidos en el extranjero a la población. Los números han crecido desde 1990. De 1990 a 2012, la población de inmigrantes nacidos en el extranjero de 18 años y mayores aumento de 17.7 millones a 19.3 millones o 109% en 1990 y de ahí aumento a 37 millones en 2012, dijo el informe.

El aumento de la población nacida en el extranjero se reflejó en otras partes del país. Sin embargo, la población de americanos nativos en la región central de América disminuyó. La cantidad de inmigrantes decayó en los estados de Maine, Pennsylvania occidental, Virginia Occidental, Ohio y otros orientales. La decadencia se debió al éxodo y a una tasa más alta de mortalidad con relación al número de nacimientos.

A lo largo del Río Mississippi, la parte sureña de Arkansas y en Mississippi occidental estos hechos no podrían haber sido más evidentes, como las estadísticas del Pew indicaron en el informe. El documento también informó que “aproximadamente dos tercios de condados en North Dakota, Kan-

sas y Nebraska experimentaron algún tipo de decadencia en su población nativa; esos condados tuvieron una decadencia promedio del 12 %.”

Estados en donde la población nativa creció fue en las ubicaciones tradicionales en las cuáles los inmigrantes eran recibidos. El crecimiento ayudó a manejar el aumento de población en estados y ubicaciones no tradicionales. Por ejemplo el crecimiento de la población inmigrante en California y New Jersey ayudó a los estados en el sudeste y los estados montañosos ah aumentar su población, ya que estas regiones llegaron a ser un destino nuevo para inmigrantes nacidos en el extranjero.

*—Traducción Miguel Quezada*

## GEDs Transform Prisoners' Lives Through Education

*Continued from Page 1*

three years, 40 percent of them will be back in prison for a new crime or failing to keep the terms of their release, according to the Rand Corporation. In California, that figure is 54.3 percent, state records show.

Jackson began serving his life sentence in a maximum-security prison, where he stayed for nine years. Last year, he was transferred to San Quentin State Prison, a medium-security prison.

“I thought, ‘My gosh, I’m in the land of opportunity,’” Jackson said. “I can’t make any more excuses for not getting things done.”

The first program Jackson got involved with was Alcoholics Anonymous.

“I couldn’t get into anything else,” he said. “AA is the backbone of restructuring my life.”

Since then, he has participated in a long list of rehab programs and earned several vocational training certificates.

But getting his GED is the most important thing on his plate, he said. Jackson attends a nighttime GED preparation class designed to prepare students for the new computerized GED test.

Participating in educational programs during incarceration reduces one’s chances of go-



Ladelle and his wife Elayne Jackson

ing back to prison by about 43 percent, the Rand Corporation found.

The voluntary GED preparation class occurs every Tuesday and Thursday from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. Any inmate can enroll in the class. About a half dozen community volunteers and five inmates who serve as peer educators facilitate the class.

Many inmates in the nighttime GED preparation class have day jobs, which prevents them from participating in daytime educational opportunities.

Inmates must take English and math placement tests in or-

der to qualify for the program, according to peer educator Bobby Evans.

“If the students do not meet the criteria we just don’t leave them hanging. We refer them to Free to Succeed and Project Reach, programs designed to serve their educational needs,” he said.

Jackson attends the Free to Succeed program on Friday nights.

The English classes begin with large group instruction. Afterward, the students break into smaller discussion groups and receive individual help.

“When we first started, we didn’t have a curriculum,” said peer educator Miguel Quezada. “We just taught basic math and English skills.”

But community volunteer Ellen Dahlke brought structure to the program, he said.

“We build on a person’s prior knowledge to educate,” Dahlke said of her approach to teaching.

“Ms. Dahlke brought a lot of organizational and managerial skills to better administer the program,” said math tutor Todd “Silk” Williams. “She brought a lot of focus on how to manage the program with the limited resources we had.”

Dahlke sought assistance in training teaching instructors from H. Samy Alim, University of Stanford Professor of Education, Anthropology and Linguistics.

The peer education staff and several community volunteers attended Alim’s workshop that focused on how language barriers complicate teaching.

“There’s a stereotypical expectation that people have when they encounter other cultures,” Alim told the staff during the workshop. “Language has to be used appropriately for the right place and the right time.”

Jackson said the teachers cater their teaching to meet the inmates’ needs.

“They actively engage in the

teaching process,” he said. “The inmate tutors do a good job.”

Jackson’s math tutor is Williams, who began tutoring at Salinas Valley State Prison.

“I found that education is my passion and my purpose,” Williams said.

When Williams arrived at San Quentin, he applied for a job in the education department. He didn’t get the job but was asked to work as a volunteer tutor.

Williams said his biggest challenges are keeping the men motivated not to quit and giving them self-confidence.

“Most of the guys who come in are somewhat older and don’t realize the advantage of opening up your mind to a good education so that they could see life in a better light,” he said.

Williams said he’s hoping for more support from the prison’s education department.

“We need things like computers, in order to stay current with the new GED test requirements,” he said.

Williams’ brother-in-law is the vice principal of McClymonds High School.

“He taught me to care and be concerned for young people,” Williams said. “I learned to understand that what I’m doing makes a difference. And that I have a responsibility to that end.”

*—By Juan Haines*



# The After Affects of Hobby Crafts' Closure

By **Rahsaan Thomas**  
Staff Writer

More than three years after a hobby craft program for San Quentin mainline inmates closed down, an in-cell program is in the works.

"In-cell hobby will be allowed so put a list of suggestion for us to look at," Associate Warden Kelly Mitchell said, according to MAC meeting minutes dated July 9.

The program will include dorms too.

Hobby craft hasn't been available to mainline inmates at San Quentin since the hobby shop was "temporarily" closed in July 1, 2012.

Death Row inmates' in-cell program wasn't affected by the closure.

Before the 2012 closure of the hobby program, inmates were allowed to use special tools inside the shop for wood-working, jewelry making, braiding leather, macramé and crocheting. These tools weren't allowed outside the shop.

The hobby shop was supposed to reopen for mainline inmates, according to a 602 Inmate Appeal response received by inmate Nick Garcia in 2012.

However, a notice taped to the hobby door in February of 2015 read: "The time has come

to permanently close the Main Hobby Craft." That is how mainline San Quentin inmates were notified that the rehabilitative program they loved was over.

The Warden's Bulletin SQWB#10/2015 declared mainline inmates had 15 days to decide whether to donate their hobby crafts and supplies or send them home.

"I joined hobby craft in 2011 and got my wood the day before they closed it," said inmate Paul Stauffer, 58. "If they had told me sooner, I would have been able to send the supplies back and gotten my family a refund."

Inmates involved in arts have a 30 percent recidivism reduction rate, according to Larry Brewster, a physiologist hired by the William James Association to conduct a study on recidivism. The study also showed a 50 percent reduction in prison discipline problems for inmates doing art.

"I draw, paint; it keeps me busy," said inmate Roy Gilstrap, 48. "I learned how to play nice with others through hobby. I have gone from being in The Hole a lot to being a painter."

"I use hobby to build family relationships," continued Gilstrap. "I have adult kids who are mad at me for spending my



Photo by L. Robinson

San Quentin's Handicraft Shop where prisoners' artwork pieces are sold

whole life in prison. I made my daughter a cradle and sent it to her. That was the first time she talked to me."

"That's where the sense of accomplishment comes from...when you can give back to someone you have wronged by being in prison," said McKinstry.

Inmates contributed to society through selling crafts. It paid their court-imposed restitution fines, and taxes. Inmate Welfare gives them a means to donate and take care of themselves.

The men used funds sent to their Inmate Trust Accounts to order supplies. If they owed

a restitution fine, which many owed \$10,000 or more, 55 percent of any incoming funds were accessed towards the fine. Then all inmates were charged an additional 10 percent above the cost of the supplies to pay into the Inmate Welfare Fund.

Their hobby craft trinkets were sold in a store right outside the San Quentin East Gate, across from a Post Office. Buyers pay Marin County sales tax. Also, a nine percent markup was paid into the Inmate Welfare Fund, according to California Code of Regulations, Title 15 3104 (b) (2) Inmate Handicraft Sales.

The profits were placed on

the inmates' books, minus 55 percent for restitution (if any is owed) and the process started over with their next order of supplies, according to McKinstry.

"Doing hobby craft was paying off my restitution," said Gilstrap. "I owed \$17,000; now I'm down to \$4,700. I have a job but I only make \$36 a month as a yard crew worker."

Gilstrap made little houses that said *SQ Gas Chambers* and sold for \$21; his jailhouse rocks cost \$6.

"The monetary aspect just allows you to do more artwork. If you are a true artist and doing it for the sake of the artwork, it's where you want to be," said McKinstry.

"It gave me a feeling of self-worth, that I was able to contribute instead of being a drain on my cousins and my mom," said Stauffer.

Once hobby craft manager Andre William took over, the store stopped being open very often. He eliminated weekend access and reduced the shop hours to two a day at various times and days, according to McKinstry.

"It was never open when I came in," said Ned Axthelm, an arts teacher.

Williams refused to comment on this story.

## ACLU Calls for Immigration Investigation

By **Nathan Hall**  
Journalism Guild Writer

ACLU of Southern California is among the groups calling for Immigration and Customs Enforcement to investigate the substandard medical care at Adelanto Detention facility. The ACLU and nine other legal service providers and human rights organizations list numerous instances that place detainees at unnecessary risk.

"It goes above and beyond individual cases," ACLU attorney Michael Kaufman said in a phone interview with the San Bernardino County Sun. "What we've seen is a systemic pattern of delaying treatment, misdiagnosing or just not giving treatment. We've seen that for years now across many different detainees."

Contrary to the ACLU reports, Pablo E. Paez of the GEO Group says the Adelanto

facility had a score of 100 percent in its most-recent American Correctional Association review. The GEO Group has had a public-private partnership with U.S. Immigration and Customs.

However, the ACLU letter points to problems at other facilities around the world operated by GEO. A 2012 Department of Justice report found "systematic, egregious, and dangerous practices," includ-

ing inadequate medical care, at a GEO Group facility in Mississippi and deaths at other facilities as recently as March when GEO Group was found negligent in prisoners' deaths.

GEO Group plans to add 640 beds, house women and LGBT individuals there for the first time, the newspaper reported.

In a letter to ICE, ACLU requests immediate intervention to ensure the health and safety of the current and future de-

tainees housed at Adelanto. They also request steps be taken to appoint an independent investigator and that plans to expand the site stop.

ICE found that the death of Mexican immigrant Fernando Dominguez was due to "egregious errors" committed by medical staff, the letter noted.

The ACLU points to a second death it says was also caused by inadequate medical care.

## Nun Shares Her Nuclear Protest Arrest Experience

By **John Lam**  
Journalism Guild Writer

In 2012 an 82-year-old activist nun broke into the largest nuclear complex in the United States to bring attention to the ease with which its security could be breached.

"Sister Megan Rice and two other activists from Plowshares (an anti-nuclear organization), Michael Walli, 63, and Gregory Boertje-Obed, 57, were dropped off in the middle of the night outside the Y-12 Oak Ridge nuclear facility near Knoxville, Tenn.... Armed with spray paint, bolt cutters and a few other supplies, they first hung large banners on the facility's chain link fence, then cut 14-inch inverted L-shape openings in the three fences that 'protect' the facility," the New York *Daily News* reported.

The three then proceeded to walk to the building housing highly enriched weapons grade uranium, easily avoiding any electronic motion sensors and video cameras.

Once inside the building, "I wrapped some pillars in crime tape," said Rice. "We splashed a vial of human blood on the wall."

"They spray-painted quotes from the Bible such as, 'swords into plowshares,' and banged on the building with hammers. Then they waited to be arrested...They waited some more," the *Daily News* reported.

"We saw a car with a guard slowly driving up. He stopped, and radioed to the police that protesters had gotten in," said Rice.

As the result of her break-in, Rice was sentenced to 35 months for interfering with national security and was ordered to pay \$52,000 for estimated damage to government property.

The facility did not repair the damage for five months until members of Plowshares showed them exactly where the damage was done.

At her sentencing, the nun told the judge, "Please have no leniency with me. To remain in prison for the rest of my life would

be the greatest gift you could give me."

Sister Megan Rice was born in 1930 in New York City to a father who was an obstetrician and a mother with a Ph.D. from Columbia University. At 18 she joined the order of Sisters of the Holy Child of Jesus while studying at Harvard and earning degrees in biology from Villanova and Boston College.

She knew she was going to prison for breaking into the nuclear facility as a protest, but believe it's up to people without children, who have nothing to lose, to take the risks others can't afford, Rice told the *Daily News*.

"The Y-12 Nuclear Facility, which they breached in less than seven minutes, and which can theoretically be breached by real terrorists, houses 100,000 tons of highly enriched uranium," the *Daily News* reported.

"This uranium is bomb-grade and so explosive that one grapefruit-size chunk, if dropped onto another chunk of the same size from a height of 6 feet, would



File photo

Sister Megan Rice spent two years in prison

cause an explosion at least half the size of Hiroshima," said Robert Gleason, author of *The Nuclear Terrorist*.

"The question - how can we overcome the secrecy and blatant distortion of the truth of the horrific risks to planet Earth's survival as we know it, as long as we fail to transform the nuclear weapons and energy industries into possible, life-enhancing alternatives, and begin with

dismantlement now? We are all equally responsible to stop known crimes, according to our unique gifts and abilities," Sister Megan said.

Sister Megan Rice, now 85, served two years in a federal prison. Last May, an appellate court declared the government had overreached in charging them with sabotage and ordered the three activists released, *The New York Times* reported.



# Insights Gained in Childhood Development Class

By John Lam  
Journalism Guild Writer

Thirty-two men discovered volumes about themselves and the people around them during a six-month group therapy program.

"It was an eye-opening experience that has changed the way I view the world," Jonathan Hamilton said.

He was one of the inmates who graduated from the San Quentin Kid CAT's Childhood Development Curriculum.

"I have witnessed so much growth in our participants in

## Kid CAT Speaks!

developing self-awareness, self-confidence," said Hera Chan, curriculum facilitator. "This is something that we teach, in being aware that there are choices, people can take back their power; they are not victims of their circumstances."

Built to foster community, participants explore the three phases of life – the past, present and future – through small

group discussions where they can develop confidence to seek the help they need. Through lectures and large circle processes, participants are given the opportunity to see the commonality of their own struggles with other participants.

The program includes eight modules from Masculinity to Forgiveness.

"This class helped me face the trauma of my childhood,

from the things that were haunting me. The facilitators gave me the tools to deal with them in a safe manner that will help me and my family," said graduate William Barnhard. "They taught me how to communicate with my mother."

"My friend Jonathan, who is graduating today, was fully involved in gang-banging before taking this class; today he has learned where it all stemmed from, from his views of how to be a man," said Donte Smith, curriculum facilitator.

Hamilton commented, "Before the curriculum, I was a

negative person ...basically a gang banger. I used to be shy and introverted ...but the curriculum showed me a different perspective."

Graduate Emile DeWeaver said, "I discovered more about myself than I have ever thought. I think understanding that even when I was a horrible person, I was still a human being, even despite the damage I have done, I still deserved love. This is the biggest thing I have gotten out of this class."

More than 150 inmates are on the waiting list for the program – a wait of over two years.

# Juvenile Lifer Paroles With Help of Senate Bill 260

It's the fifth Sunday of the month as men and volunteers stream into a trailer to begin another session of Juvenile Lifer Support Group. But this is no ordinary meeting. Today, over 40 individuals came to support one of their own.

Michael Tyler, 32, was 16 when he committed second-degree murder and was sentenced to 18 years to life. He was found suitable for parole on his second hearing, his first under Senate Bill 260.

As the men and volunteers arranged themselves in a large circle, they each took turns sharing their own experiences with Michael.

Kid CAT member Nghiep Lam, said, "It's hard to express my feelings, one of the things that resonated with me and him is that we were both juveniles coming in. Now I see him as a grown man. For me, he is very inspiring, and I hope to get to the stage where he is at."

"Mike Tyler contributed immensely, and undeniably he will contribute to the outside world. He brings heart, integrity, honesty and courage into his interaction as a facilitator, a leader, and as a friend," added Monique LaSarre, a lead outside facilitator

for the Kid CAT curriculum.

As tears of gratitude streamed down his face, Tyler responded. "I feel that I don't deserve the accolades because a baby had to grow up without a father and today I still feel that."

Reflecting on his incarceration, he commented, "In the beginning of my incarceration, I felt inadequate and didn't belong, which kept me doing my own thing. However, it got to the point where I had to change, because I didn't like the feeling I was having."

Bankston, a support group participant said, "Today, I realized that it was my own negative-self-talk that kept me away from Mike. When I finally decided to talk to him, I found someone different. He helped me with issues I had about my mother, and he even checked in with me afterwards."

Tyler credits his rehabilitation to three groups that had a lasting impact in his life,

"TRUST (Teaching Responsibility Utilizing Sociological Training) was the first group that mentored me. VOEG (Victim Offender Education Group) gave me the opportunity to look at myself and helped heal the pain in my past, realizing the

events that transpired did not define who I am, and it offered me the opportunity for growth. SQUIRES (an at-risk youth mentorship program) gave me the opportunity to share what I learned with young men," says Tyler.

"When I committed my crime, I was a person who didn't trust people. I had a lot of people in my life who would say one thing and do another. My mother was a drug addict and she chose drugs and alcohol over me, and that hurt."

"I did everything that was asked of me and it got to the point where it didn't matter anymore," said Tyler. "I wanted acceptance, and a few friends gave it to me. By then, my life had little value, and murder became an option for me."

"Now I realize too late that I had many options that I didn't use. A man, a father, and a son was taken from this world by me, all because I couldn't deal with my emotions," said Tyler.

"Everybody's process of transformation is different; it's clear that Mike has gone from a young man that felt he had to protect himself," said Sonya Shah, VOEG program director. "Today his willingness to open



Photo by Jordana Hall

Mike Tyler: "I feel that I don't deserve the accolades because a baby had to grow up without a father and today I still feel that."

up his deepest wounds leads to true healing by allowing himself to learn how to place those negative experiences in the past."

Tyler said his message to juvenile offenders is, "There is light at the end of the tunnel. The decision is yours to be accountable, honest and truthful. Don't worry about the ramifications;

be honest with yourself. There is no reason why you should hold onto lies."

At the close of the meeting, Tyler confided, "I don't want to leave people behind, I don't want to abandon people; this is all I have known. I will not forget any of you and I am grateful to have met all of you."

—By John Lam

# Youth Justice Awareness Celebrated Nationally in October

During the month of October, communities and youth advocates throughout the country gather to celebrate the National Youth Justice Awareness Month (YJAM).

"The National Youth Justice Awareness Month is held...as an opportunity for communities, families, youth and allies to host community-led actions and events that expose the consequences of children being prosecuted in the adult criminal justice system and placed in adult jails and prisons," states the Campaign for Youth Justice (CYJ).

According to the National Council on Crime and Delinquency (NCCD):

More than 200,000 youths are tried as adults each year.

A vast majority of young people in the justice system experience serious trauma and chronic stress as well as mental illness.

Incarcerated youths are five times more likely to be sexually

assaulted than peers in juvenile detention.

Incarcerated youths are 36 times more likely to commit suicide.

"On Jan. 4, 2008, Tracy McClard, a mother in Jackson, Mo, received a call from the Missouri Department of Corrections informing her that her 17-year-old son, Jonathan, was dead. Jonathan had taken his own life upon realizing that an adult sentence made it impossible to see a future for himself," CYJ reported.

Based on her own experiences, McClard became determined to stop such ordeals from happening to other parents and children. In 2008, she began hosting 5K races to educate the

public and her Missouri lawmakers about the issues of incarcerating youths and sentencing them as adults.

Inspired by McClard's actions, others began advocating for changes in youth justice. In 2009, the Campaign for Youth Justice launched the National Youth Justice Awareness Month.

"States have pressed forward in undertaking significant reform efforts, with victories in over 23 states, paving the way for others to follow suit. The voices of youth, their parents and families – most impacted by these policies – were at the forefront of these efforts," states the Campaign for Youth Justice.

—By John Lam

# Counselor Advises Men On Re-Entry Services

Reentry expert Jennifer Armstrong urges men returning to their communities to begin preparing themselves immediately.

"There are things that you should know and use as guides as you get ready to be released and I will teach you how to get a book for free that will have a list of resources you can use," said Armstrong, during a recent visit to Kid CAT.

The two most pressing issues the men expressed in Kid CAT were housing and employment.

"Every county has free training for vocation; people are not aware of the amount of resources that are out there," said Armstrong, who is a vocational rehabilitation counselor at San Mateo County. "Work Force Development Program is in every county and they will help people go to vocational schools for free."

"I would encourage people to look into job opportunities before and once they get out of prison," said Armstrong. "Peo-

ple who get trained in a vocational job don't skip around to find jobs, they find a career. I'm also not going to tell you that it's going to be easy, but seek out people and programs that are going to support you and show you compassion."

Since most people in custody are paroling to various counties, Armstrong recommends that those who are seeking housing obtain the resource book, which has information about transitional housing throughout California.

The title of the book is called "Roadmap to Reentry: A California Legal Guide, 2015 Root and Rebound."

To obtain a copy of the book, have a friend or family call Root and Rebound at 510-279-4662. Website: [www.rootandrebound.org](http://www.rootandrebound.org).

Or write to: 1730 Franklin Street, Suite 300 Oakland, CA 94612 to receive the resource book filled with service information.

—By John Lam

**Kid CAT (Creating Awareness Together) is a group of men that committed their crimes as teens and were sentenced as adults to life terms. The group's mission is to inspire humanity through education, mentorship and restorative practices. Kid CAT Speaks wants to hear from the male and female juvenile lifers, educators, and policy makers concerning juvenile justice issues and rehabilitation.**



# Confronting Death Row’s Full Capacity

*‘If expansion is delayed, San Quentin would not have beds to accommodate the condemned’*

By James R. Abernathy Jr.  
Journalism Guild Writer

Death Row inmate housing at San Quentin State Prison has reached near full capacity.

California Gov. Jerry Brown had requested \$3.2 million in special funding from legislators to expand Death Row by 97 cells, reported the *Los Angeles Times*.

“Based on the critical nature of the bed shortage, it is not feasible to delay the approval and implementation of this proposal,” stated the governor’s budget document.

“If expansion is delayed, San Quentin would not have beds to accommodate the condemned should any return from court, outside medical facilities, or if S.Q. receives any newly condemned inmates,” the governor

reported.

S.Q. comprises four separate cell blocks – East Block, West Block, North Block and South Block.

The prison reports 708 out of 715 cells on Death Row in East Block are currently occupied.

Brown’s budget plan proposed to utilize an additional 97 cells on the first two tiers of the five-tier South Block.

Funding for the expansion would be used to increase staff, enhance security and modify secured showers for condemned inmates.

The availability of unoccupied cells is due in part to a U.S. District Court order to reduce California’s prison overcrowding, and last year’s voter-approved Proposition 47, resulting in the release and reclassification of certain low-level offenders.

In 2006, Clarence Ray Allen was the last inmate to get executed in California, which was by lethal injection.

Since then, the state has been barred from executing inmates due to the U.S. District Court’s ruling that the state’s three-drug lethal injection procedure is unconstitutional, violating the Eighth Amendment of the U.S. Constitution, which reads:

“Excessive bail shall not be required, nor excessive fines imposed, nor unusual punishments inflicted.”

In 2012, Brown asked an advisory board to investigate a single-drug method to get around the court ruling. However, no methods have been adopted.

The constitutionality of the state’s capital punishment system is also being challenged.

In July 2014, a federal judge

ruled that the appeals process for condemned inmates is unconstitutional slow. Inmates often have to wait years to be appointed attorneys for their appeals, and wait even more years for the state Supreme Court to decide their cases.

The average wait time an inmate serves on Death Row before actually being executed in California has been 17.5 years.

It’s gotten so that inmates have begun to die of natural causes while awaiting execution. Forty-nine Death Row inmates have died from other causes since the last execution in 2006.

Critics of Brown said his proposal didn’t address these deeper issues concerning California’s death penalty system.

“This is a failure of Gov. Brown to do the things within

his power to move things forward,” said Kent Scheidegger, legal director of the Criminal Justice Legal Foundation.

The Legislature approved Brown’s budget proposal and construction is currently underway at San Quentin.

In a written statement to the *L.A. Times*, Sen. Loni Hancock, D-Berkeley, who led the budget committee wrote:

“California is in a catch-22 situation. We are required by the courts to address prison overcrowding and we are required by law to provide certain minimum conditions for housing death penalty inmates. The Legislature can’t avoid its responsibilities in these areas even though the courts are currently considering the constitutionality of the death penalty, and I hope will agree to end it.”

# 6 of 10 Black Men Report Police Treat Them Unfairly

By Kevin D. Sawyer  
Journalism Guild Chairman

A recent survey found six out of 10 Black men in the United States say they have experienced unfair treatment at the hands of police and that race was the primary cause, according to the *Associated Press* (AP).

“It’s been like this for a long time,” said Larry Washington, 30, of Merrillville, Indiana. “It’s just now that everybody’s starting to record it and stuff, it’s just hitting the spotlight. Most Caucasians, they think it’s just starting to go on when it’s been like this.”

The survey was done by the Associated Press-NORC Center for Public Affairs Research as the one year anniversary of the shooting of Michael Brown in Ferguson, Missouri approached.

“Seventy-two percent of Whites said they always or often trust police to do right by them and their community, while 66 percent of Blacks said they only sometimes, rarely or never trust the police to do what is right,” the AP reported.

According to the survey, only 3 percent of Whites say that their treatment by law enforcement has been unfair due

to their race.

The AP reported 74 percent of Whites believe race is not a factor in how police in their communities choose to use lethal force while 71 percent of Blacks believe law enforcement is prone to use lethal force against Blacks. Eighty-five percent of Blacks said the same thing generally applied across the United States.

“White Americans who live in more diverse communities — where census data show at least 25 percent of the population is non-white — were more likely than other whites to say police in their communities mistreat minorities...”

the survey reported.

The poll numbers reflect 62 percent of Whites saying police violence happens in large part to civilians confronting police, instead of cooperating with them when stopped. Seventy-five percent of Blacks said the reason for mistreatment rests in the fact that a police officer’s misconduct is seldom prosecuted when excessive force is used.

Seventy percent of Blacks identified problems with race relations, along with poor police-community relations, as major reason for police violence, the poll said.

In Milwaukee County Wisconsin sheriff David A. Clarke Jr. said Blacks have more run-ins with the law than Whites due to the nature of crime rates in urban environments.

“If you have more interaction with the police because of the crime and the disorder in our urban centers — the American ghetto I like to say it — it’s going to skew the numbers,” Clarke said.

“Everything is not right, but it’s better. We have bad cops and we have good cops. I don’t know where we’re going to from here, but we need police,” said David Thomas, 80, of Vienna, Georgia.

The AP polled 1,223 adults randomly; of this number 311 were Black. The poll was done over a three day period in July utilizing a sample from NORC’s probability-based “Amerispeak panel” representing the U.S. population. The margin of error among Black respondents is plus or minus 9.1 percentage points.

# ‘Many Felonies Should Instead Be Misdemeanors’

By John Lam  
Journalism Guild Writer

America needs to reduce many non-violent felonies to misdemeanors to help reduce the number of prison inmates, says Grammy Award winner John Legend.

“Once you have that tag of a felony on your name, it’s hard for you to do anything,” Legend said. “Getting those reduced to misdemeanors would really impact a lot of lives, and we hope to launch more initiatives like that around the country.”

Legend is quoted in an April story on [Recordnet.com](#) by Matthew T. Mangino.

California voters last year approved Proposition 47, which reduced many non-violent felonies to misdemeanors. It gives thousands of prisoners and former prisoners the chance to petition a court to reduce felony convictions to misdemeanors.

“We have a serious problem with incarceration in this country,” said Legend. “When you look deeper and look at the reasons we got to this place, we as a society made some choices politically and legislatively, culturally to deal with poverty, deal



John Legend

with mental illness in a certain way and that way usually involves using incarceration.”

“Since the early 1970s, the nation’s prison population has quadrupled to 2.2 million, making it the world’s biggest. That is five to 10 times the incarceration rate in other democracies,” Mangino wrote, quoting the *New York Times*.

He also quoted the *Washington Post* as reporting minorities constitute 60 percent of the U.S. prison population. Also over-

represented are men under the age of 40, the poorly educated, people with mental illness and those dependent on drugs and alcohol.

“There are more people locked up in the U.S. than in China. In fact, the U.S. is home to nearly a quarter of the world’s prisoners, despite accounting for just 5 percent of the overall global population,” Prison Policy Institute states.

Americans are currently spending \$80 billion on mass incarceration, state spending on incarceration has increased 400 percent between 1980 and 2009, the story says.

The current corrections budget for California is \$10.2 billion.

“Spending at the state level has outpaced budget increases for just about every other function of government, including education, transportation and welfare. Only spending on Medicaid at the state level has grown faster in the last 20 years,” [Recordnet.com](#) reported.

Legend said he is scheduled to travel to various prisons throughout the U.S. along with press events to raise awareness.

# Richard Branson Challenges Businesses To Hire Ex-Felons



Richard Branson

Founder of the Virgin empire, Richard Branson, calls on businesses to provide more job opportunities to ex-felons as they leave prison.

“Business must become a stronger advocate for rehabilitation. It makes perfect sense, as it increases the talent pool, lowers the price tag of re-offending, nurtures entrepreneurial spirit

and contributes to safer communities,” Branson said in a June 1 article in *HR Grapevine*.

Branson noted the success of Virgin Trains hiring former convicts.

“We encourage our businesses to actively work with, and consider applications from, people with prior convictions, and Virgin Trains has been pioneering the hiring of ex-offenders – an approach which could become a model for many of our businesses,” he said.

“The vast majority of the people that we have employed, and therefore provided with the dignity of work, are still working with us and are valued members of our team.

“Ex-prisoners should have the chance to learn from the mistakes of their past and be fully rehabilitated. Businesses must play an important role to make sure they succeed,” concluded Branson.

–By John Lam



# ‘Dignity and Human Rights of the Mexican People’

By Miguel Quezada  
Staff Writer

## EDITORIAL

For many Americans, Mexico is the neighbor where college kids spend their spring break and where tequila originates. Many Americans still believe that Mexico gained independence on 5 De Mayo and that California, Nevada, New Mexico, Arizona

— with the exception of Texas, Remember the Alamo!—have always been a part of the United States.

Since gaining independence on Sept. 16, 1821, Mexico has faced political, social and eco-

nomie turmoil. For Mexico independence has not always meant freedom; nor independence translated into a government that respects the dignity and human rights of the Mexican people.

The Mexican Revolution of 1910 was the nation’s first internal conflict that pushed the nation to become a democratic country. The revolution was a result of the campesinos and citizens seeking agrarian reform and a stake in their country’s wealth. The revolution was successful, but eventually it was followed by the 75-year one-party rule that brought about the same circumstances that Mexico had fought to end in the fight for independence.

The nation’s second internal conflict stemmed from the same history of social and economic inequality. On New Year’s Eve in 1994 as many Mexicans celebrated, the Zapatista National Liberation Army (EZLN) declared war on the Mexican government. The root cause of the rebellion was the signing of the North Atlantic Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) between the United States, Canada and Mexico. NAFTA meant wealth for Mexican leaders, the US and Canada, but for many of Mexico’s indigenous people the agreement meant their dislocation from land and the destruction of much of the nation’s natural resources.

The turmoil is a reflection of

Mexico’s longstanding practice of corruption that is imbedded in the country’s political and economic institutions. From political leaders pocketing wealth made from selling the countries’ resource to foreign nations to the traditional “mordida” (literally, a “bite,” a small amount of money that is given to local police to avoid any trouble).

The corruption has kept the average Mexican citizen living in poverty with limited educational, employment or social opportunities. This causes uncertainty; the result is an emigration that has sent thousand of Mexicans across the border into the United States to seek those opportunities for themselves and their children. Emigration has cost thousands of Mexican men, women and children their lives as they swam across the Rio Bravo or walked across the desert.

Today the general corruption that plagues Mexico is compounded by the larger issue of the billion dollar drug trade. The “war on drugs” has led to the deaths and disappearances of thousands of Mexican citizens. Thousands more have immigrated into the United States seeking refuge and an escape from the violence that has overrun Mexico.

Today, while the average American views immigration through the lens of political leaders for or against immigra-



Author Luis Rodriguez

tion policy, many Mexicans have found a better life in the U.S. and have contributed to making America a better and stronger country.

This includes figures like union leader Cesar Chavez; authors Luis Rodriguez, who is working to end gang violence, and Alberto Urrea, who highlights the plight of the immigrant; and Daniel “Nane” Alejandre, who has dedicated his life to ending the mass incarceration of Latinos and to ending gang violence.

In spite of this long history of turmoil, Mexican immigrants have thrived culturally in their homeland and in their adopted homeland of the United States. They have maintained a deep sense of pride in their rich history of music arts and traditions, while sharing them and adding to the melting pot that is America.



Painting depicting Miguel Hidalgo rallying the people



Activist and labor organizer Dolores Huerta



Barrios Unidos founder: Daniel “Nane” Alejandre



Journalist Ruben Salazar



Cesar Chavez, founder of the National Farm Workers

# Mexicanos Celebran el Dia de Su Independencia

Por Marco Villa Y  
Tare Beltranchuc

Los mexicanos alrededor del mundo celebran el día de su independencia en el mes de Septiembre, conmemorando una victoria militar sobre los españoles.

El 16 de Septiembre, las calles de la ciudad de México se iluminan con desfiles en las cuales los estudiantes de diferentes niveles participan. Los estudiantes representan los acontecimientos de la batalla entre los españoles e insurgentes en memoria de los héroes caídos,

Los mexicanos celebran este acontecimiento en compañía de sus seres queridos, “escuchando su música regional amenizada por bandas locales y mariachis deleitándose a la vez con sus comidas tradicionales favoritas (pozole, enchiladas, tamales, buñuelos, mole) y bebidas,” Dr.

Manuel Lucena Salmoral, el autor de Crónica de América escribió.

La Independencia de México fue declarada oficialmente en Septiembre 28 de 1821. Sin embargo los mexicanos inician la celebración de su independencia el 15 de Septiembre con el tradicional “Grito de Independencia.”

Numerosas comunidades mexicanas se reúnen a las 11 de la noche para celebrar este evento. El zócalo es el centro de reunión en la Ciudad de México donde el presidente ondea la bandera de México, dando un grito de júbilo “¡Viva México!, Viva Hidalgo, Morelos, Guerrero, Allende e Iturbide” y otros. Posteriormente los cielos se iluminan con fuegos artificiales.

El movimiento de independencia triunfó porque mexicanos ricos, quienes se habían aliado a la realeza española,

decidieron dejar de apoyar a los españoles y al movimiento de independencia.

Los principales líderes del movimiento incluyeron a Miguel Hidalgo Y Costilla, un sacerdote con buena educación, al General Ignacio Allende, Juan Aldama y Miguel Domínguez. La lucha por la independencia estaba enfocada en los “odiados gachupines “ (españoles nacidos en Europa que residían en México), que vivían en la opulencia, mientras la mayoría de los nativos vivían en la pobreza a pesar de la riqueza de la nación.

Hidalgo, considerado el “Padre de la Patria,” convocó a la gente a una misa al sonar las campanas de la iglesia de Dolores Guanajuato en la madrugada del 16 de Septiembre de 1810. Aproximadamente 300 personas acudieron a este llamado, entre los cuales se en-

contraban dueños de haciendas, políticos y españoles locales.

El período durante el cual México logró su independencia tuvo una duración de 11 años (de 1810 a 1821) y consistió en varias fases al mando de diferentes líderes.

Hidalgo inicio la insurrección con alrededor de 800 hombres, sin embargo, el número de seguidores que apoyaban a Hidalgo llegó a ser de 80,000 a 100,000 hombres. En el principio de la insurgencia, Hidalgo y Allende lograron importantes victorias en San Miguel de Celaya.

Después de luchar por más de un año y haber perdido una batalla importante, Hidalgo fue reemplazado por el general Allende. Cabe mencionar que ambos líderes fueron capturados y ejecutados.

Posteriormente, a raíz de la muerte de estos líderes surgió

José Maria Morelos quien continuó con el movimiento de independencia. Desafortunadamente, Morelos fue capturado y ejecutado en 1815. A consecuencia de su muerte la insurrección se redujo a una guerrilla bajo el liderazgo de Vicente Guerrero.

El 24 de febrero de 1821, el Coronel Agustín de Iturbide quien estaba en contra del movimiento de independencia por años hizo una alianza con Guerrero, líder de los rebeldes. Como resultado, “El Ejército de las Tres Garantías surgió. Este ejército estuvo bajo el mando de Iturbide quien ejerció el Plan de Iguala,” de acuerdo al autor Francisco Sosa.

Finalmente, el 27 de Septiembre de 1821, el Ejército de las Tres Garantías entro a la Ciudad de México y el día 28 del mismo mes Iturbide proclamó la independencia de México.



# TRUST and Centerforce Host the 12<sup>th</sup> Annual Health Fair



Photo by Sam Hearnes

Chiropractor's neck alignment station was a popular attraction

By Kevin D. Sawyer  
Journalism Guild Chairman

For the 12th consecutive year, San Quentin, California's oldest state prison, hosted the largest health fair to date by any correctional facility in the nation.

Held Aug. 21, the TRUST-Centerforce Health Fair collaborated with the Bay Area Black Nurses Association, Alameda County Health Department, San Francisco State University Nursing School and the San Quentin State Prison medical department to educate inmates about the importance of healthcare.

Nearly 2,000 inmates received healthcare information from more than 150 volunteers who helped make this one-day event possible.

"It gets better and better every year," said Angel Falcone,

an inmate coordinator with TRUST and Centerforce. "Today, we are making history."

This health fair is unique in that so many healthcare services are made available to inmates at one time. They were able to have their hearts checked, blood tested and blood pressure read. Additionally, in the dental hygiene room inmates were given free toothbrushes and toothpaste.

For some inmates, this was their first opportunity to receive such an array of healthcare literature and services.

"This was my first time going to something like this," said Clenard Wade, after receiving chiropractic service. "I had a problem in my shoulder, and they took care of that. I had trouble getting on the bunk, and now I have the energy."

The day began with orienta-

tion for the volunteers. Falcone presented awards to various volunteers who were instrumental in making the health fair a success.

"Twelve years ago the men had a vision about their health care," said Mildred Crear, keynote speaker and member of the Bay Area Black Nurses Association. "Hopefully we can pass this on to other generations."

Crear said things have really changed, and healthcare is becoming more universal. Centerforce Executive Director Larry Hill also thanked the supporters. "By virtue of your being here you've made a huge statement," he said.

Associate Warden Jeff Lawson thanked everyone on behalf of Warden Ron Davis and Chief Deputy Warden Kelly Mitchell.

"It is our job as staff to set

the example for the men who will return to society," Lawson said.

Steve Emrick, San Quentin's community partnership manager, worked in tandem with staff and inmates to coordinate the event.

The American College of Traditional Chinese Medicine (ACTCM) volunteers place ear seeds on inmates' ears. Once the ear seeds are placed, inmates were supposed to experience a relaxing effect with warm sensations, according to ACTCM literature. The treatment is said to leave people feeling "rejuvenated, nourished, and relaxed."

"I don't know if it works," said Jerome Boone, who received acupressure. "I've never tried it before and thought I'd give it a shot."

Dr. Ian Tremayne, who came from Chiropractic Services of Marin, saw more than 500 inmates at this year's health fair.

"I'm here every year. This year's definitely been bigger," said Tremayne. "We'd be here every month if we could." Rebecca Ferrell is working on her pre-doctoral clinical psychology degree and has been volunteering with TRUST since June. She said it

helps her to know this is what she wants to do while also helping to reduce recidivism.

Centerforce is a major sponsor of the health fair. Headed by Dr. Julie Lifshay, Manager of Special Projects, the organization paid for lunches for advisers who helped to organize the event.

"We're that bridge between the community and San Quentin," said Lifshay. "It's collaboration. We all meet and communicate. We're all working together. There was a lot of participation by volunteers and staff. The (SQ) administration is very supportive."

"Overall, it was an enriching experience for all of us," said Emrick. "I'd really like to acknowledge the staff members who helped process all of the health fair volunteers. They did an extremely well job. The processing was fluid."

Inmate Mariscal Brijido has participated with TRUST for five years. "I'm volunteering to make a change in my life. I want to be able to help others so that I won't continue to be selfish in my own life. By helping others, you help yourself to make changes in your life."

"I'm impressed with the



Photo by Sam Hearnes

Free pamphlets on gambling addiction

number of people here giving support and also the longevity of it," said Diana Williams, a TRUST volunteer for 11 months. This was her first health fair.

The California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation's (CDCR) mental health department made its first appearance at the health fair this year.

"This is our maiden voyage," said Dr. Kathleen O'Meara, CDCR Regional Administrator for Mental Health. She said the department has integrated mental health into the health fair to get the word out to inmates that it's okay to use its

services.

"It's better to get help than fall apart," said O'Meara. "Know your triggers."

Frankie Smith is an inmate involved with self-help group Brother's Keepers that worked with TRUST. They helped run the workshops on mental health. "She (O'Meara) is really on board with us," he said. "She really cares."

"We want to change people's mindset from criminal and anti-social to pro-social by managing their anger and processing their internal emotions," said Sam W. Johnson Sr., an inmate and co-leader of the group Alliance for Change.



Photo by Sam Hearnes

Inmates play 'Spin the Wheel' and learn about health preventions



Photo by Sam Hearnes

Carlos Flores learning from a volunteer in the gym about the different types of respiratory diseases during the Health Fair



Photo by Sam Hearnes

Participants practicing spiritual healing through drumming



Photo by Sam Hearnes

Inmate receives a back adjustment

guys."

Inmate Aaron Martin works with the diabetes group. He said the group is taught by Dr. Tootell, San Quentin's Chief Medical Executive.

"We take people from basic to advanced knowledge about diabetes," said Martin. "We passed out different recipes. It lets people know just because we have a healthy-heart diet doesn't mean it's healthy for diabetes."

Diabetes cannot be cured, but it can be controlled, a pamphlet provided says. It instructs those who suffer from diabetes to "eat healthy foods every day, be active often and take medicine as prescribed," Martin said.

Volunteer Kim Bailey worked with the diabetes group. This was her sixth health fair. A nurse by trade, she is also on the Board of Directors for the San Quentin Cares Breast Cancer Walk Committee. "I come in here a lot," said Bailey.

Eric Faulks works with California Re-entry Institute. He volunteered to help provide

inmates with other useful information such as that used for Board of Parole Hearings, resume writing, victim letter writing, parole plans, birth certificate, Social Security card and DMV identification.

"Gather as much information as possible; digest as much information as possible, and don't be afraid to ask for information," said Faulks.

Norman Tillman is an RN GNP with the Bay Area Black Nurses Association. This was his second health fair. He said, "Everybody looks like they're from my neighborhood. This is good for me because I get to treat people like people."

"I had a chance to reconnect with a lot of people I haven't seen in a while," said Dolores Lyles, Regional Program Manager with Centerforce. "I'm all about change and social justice. I do this from the heart." She said Centerforce has been partnering with San Quentin for 38 years back when it started the Visiting Center.

—James R. Abernathy Jr. and Marcus Henderson contributed to this article



Photo by Sam Hearnes

Dental hygienists give lecture on dental hygiene



Arts & Entertainment

Complete This Puzzle and Win a Prize!

A farmer has a fox, a chicken, and a bag of grain. He needs to get all of it across the river. He could only take one of these items one at a time. If he leaves the fox and the chicken alone at the same time the fox will eat the chicken. If he leaves the chicken and the grain, the chicken will eat the grain. How could you get all of it across?

The Answer to Last Months Trivia: Put the pack on and weigh yourself, then take the pack off and weigh yourself again. The difference between the two weights will determine the weight of the pack.

The winner to last Month's puzzle is Steve Kutlyo. Congratulation to David Murrieta, Michael Marino, Bruce Wells, Craig Gernstoner, T. Willis, Gene McCurdy, Robert Bacon, Edward Wycoff, Timothy Holmes, E. Vick, O'Dell Hodges, and Art Judice for also getting last month's puzzle correct.

Rules

The prize will be for completion of brain twister puzzles. All puzzle submissions should be sent via u-save-em envelope to San Quentin News/Education Department. Only one entry per person.

All correct submissions will be placed in a hat. The winner will be picked by a drawing of the first answer from that hat.

The prize is 2 Granola Bars. Prize will only be offered to inmates with privilege group status that allows for the prize items. Inmates transferred, sent to ad/seg, or otherwise not available to claim their prize will result in forfeiture.

The answer and winner's name will be published in the next issue of the San Quentin News.

Last Issue's Sudoku Solution

7	4	2	3	9	6	8	5	1
9	1	8	7	5	4	6	2	3
5	6	3	8	1	2	4	9	7
8	7	4	9	2	3	5	1	6
1	3	5	6	4	8	2	7	9
2	9	6	1	7	5	3	8	4
6	5	7	2	3	9	1	4	8
4	8	1	5	6	7	9	3	2
3	2	9	4	8	1	7	5	6

6	2	5	9	4	1	3	8	7
1	3	7	5	2	8	4	6	9
8	9	4	6	3	7	1	2	5
4	7	8	2	5	3	6	9	1
3	5	1	8	6	9	2	7	4
2	6	9	7	1	4	8	5	6
7	1	6	3	8	5	9	4	2
9	8	3	4	7	2	5	1	6
5	4	2	1	9	6	7	3	8

*If I always appear prepared, it is because before entering an undertaking, I have meditated long and have foreseen what may occur. It is not genius which reveals to me suddenly and secretly what I should do in circumstances unexpected by others; it is thought and preparation.*

-Napoleon Bonaparte

Snippets

Gravity on the moon is close to 1/6 the pull of the earth's gravity. Therefore, a person that weighs 150 lbs. would weigh twenty-five pounds on the moon.

One mosquito leg can hold up to twenty-three times the insects body weight while they walk on water.

Bingeing occasionally on sugar is better for your teeth than small frequent amounts of sugar intake.

Look-out! Owls cannot turn their heads backwards. The structure of the owl's neck allows it to turn it 135 degrees. Their neck has 14 bones and a swiveling bone to help it move. Humans have only seven neck bones.

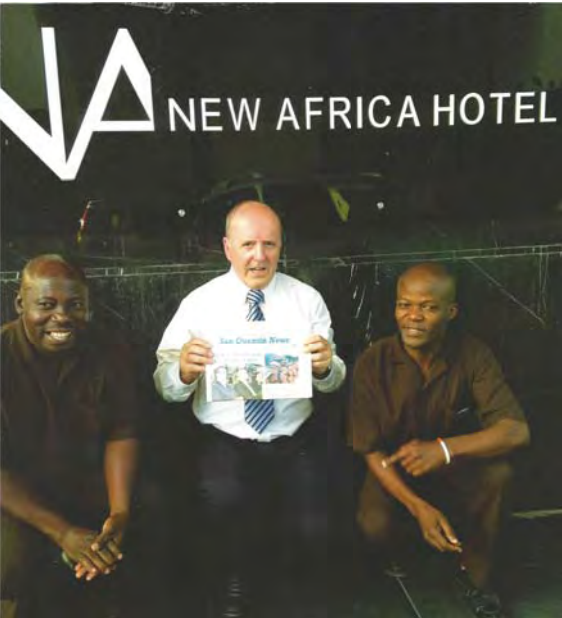
Not many people know that body temperature is regulated by blood. It redistributes heat to the skin to facilitate the cooling by the evaporation process.

Snakes are cold blooded reptiles, the smaller the snakes the less heat energy they need to survive.

Sudoku Corner

	8	3	9	5			6	
	6				2			
9	7			1				
	1		5					8
3		6				7		5
5					7		2	
				3			1	4
			7				8	
	3			9	1	5	7	

8	9						3	7
2		1	4				9	
6	2		8	1			5	
9				2				8
	7			9	4		1	6
	8				9	7		1
1	5						8	9



Augustino Maguha, Bob Barton, Christopher Mpepo in front of New Africa Hotel in Dar es Salaam, capital city of Tanzania



Pierre Joseph Romulus, Dr. Edwin Prophet, and Dr. Rolandy Edouard on relief duty in Haiti reading the SQ News



# Education - The Greatest Gift

By Larry Stiner Jr.  
Contributing Writer

## An ‘OG’s’ Perspective

Through the grapevine, I heard the question: How many different schools are they going to put her in? This was being asked in response to my wife and I enrolling our daughter, Khyra, into yet another new school. It would be the fourth school she would attend in her nearly 12 years of life. On the surface, we understood why our actions might have been questioned. We knew the importance of stability and consistency in a child’s academic world and we were keenly aware of the negative impact frequently changing schools could have on a kid. Conversely, we also knew our child very well and recognized that settling would have absolutely been the wrong approach. In our case, it was safe to say that our young daughter’s strong appetite for learning worked perfectly with our desire to provide her with the type of educational experience that

would benefit her for a lifetime. “If the school work we are providing is not challenging enough for your daughter, then perhaps this is not the right school for her,” the principal told us. “I have instructed the teachers to stick to the standards set by state of California for each grade level and they will not be going beyond that.” His words infuriated me. I could not believe this educated man of color would dare look us in the eyes and basically imply he was striving for educational mediocrity for the minority children he was hired to lead. Standing on the grounds of a school located in the heart of the inner-city, I was disappointed and confused. Our daughter and a handful of her classmates were consistently performing at levels much higher than their grade. Their teacher, recognizing this,

was more than willing to provide those students with more challenging work. For some reason, however, this principal had no interest in allowing those gifted learners to really spread their academic wings and see how high they could fly. So rather than standing by and being content with Khyra’s mastery of a standard curriculum while her true potential remained untapped, my wife and I decided to move her. Over the next few years, despite administrative promises to the contrary, we would continue to encounter similar issues within the area schools. The classrooms were typically overcrowded and there was a constant turnover in the teaching ranks. School resources were scarce and the young scholars showing a higher learning capacity were too of-

ten overlooked as the focus remained primarily on teaching students to score well on standardized tests which do not correctly reflect what a child has actually learned. Moreover, that teaching method in no way prepares students for college but rather stands as a primary reason inner-city students with college potential are so often at a disadvantage when competing with others for admission into institutions of higher learning. To us, it was beginning to look like a certain group of kids was purposely being set up to fail. My wife, while continuing to supplement Khyra’s public education with a creative form of home-schooling, began applying to the top schools in Southern California. These schools, all private, very expensive and difficult to get into, were outside of our residential area and definitely outside of our budget. Nonetheless, they offered all of what we wanted for our daughter: amazing academics, strong arts and enrichment programs,

limitless resources, diversity and a family atmosphere that could lead to a lifetime of networking and opportunities neither of us ever had. Impressed by Khyra’s grades and personal package of achievements and extracurricular activity, the schools started calling to set up entrance testing and interviews. In the end, she received acceptance and a near full scholarship to the school of her choice. Attending one of the top schools in the nation, she has already adapted well, made a host of new friends and is absolutely loving the challenging new learning environment. I am the proud father, indeed. Still, it saddens me to think that most children from neighborhoods like my own will never have the academic opportunities they deserve. For that reason, I urge parents and guardians alike not to settle for classroom mediocrity. Our children are worthy of so much more. Let’s fight to give them that great gift of a good education.

## Mark Leyner’s Account of His Alter Ego

By Juan Haines  
Managing Editor

### BOOK REVIEW

In the autobiography *Gone With the Mind*, author Mark Leyner uses a unique literary device to reflect on his past and tell his life story. More importantly, it helps him better understand who he is and how and why his life unfolded the way it did. After weighing Leyner’s technique, I can understand the impact of using self-dialogue in writing an autobiography. Leyner’s literary device comes in the form of his alter ego, which he calls the *Imaginary Intern*. The Imaginary Intern is essentially Leyner himself, reliving his life in the context of a first-person-shooter video game. In the game, Leyner follows himself – or the Imaginary Intern – as he ventures from one level to

the next, or one life event to the next — from birth, to youth, to young adulthood and so on. This storytelling mechanism gives Leyner an exclusive kind of intimacy in deciding what events are important to tell. *Gone with the Mind* begins with Leyner speeding down the highway—his drunken mother at the wheel. Under the circumstances, death is imminent. At that moment, Leyner understands the vulnerability of life, so he begins looking back. While watching life scenarios flash by, Leyner writes, “... the boy saw everything that would ensue in his life. Everything.” This setting puts readers into Leyner’s mindset and his relationship with his mother. By

placing the Imaginary Intern side-by-side with him in this scene, readers can glimpse into Leyner’s past while projecting into his future. “How the brutal indifference of time was like a vast, inexorable army of locusts...” *Gone with the Mind* (the Paris Review, Spring 2015 edition) made me think about the “insight” all life-term prisoners seek in defining who they are. Many lifers struggle to truly un-

derstand themselves, making it difficult to talk about their past, present and future. Perhaps some lifers could benefit by doing as Leyner does — that is, recounting their lives through stages and considering how each stage influenced and led to the next. Leyner models his autobiography after an adventure-based video game, but he is in fact not a video game enthusiast. In *Gone With The Mind* Leyner purchases a real video game and attempts to play but fails. His ineptness leads to the realization that he is better at saying how he wants his life to be than living it in ways he imagined. Aside from his creative literary techniques, Leyner’s insightful passages in *Gone with the Mind* also grabbed my attention, for example, “...how the brutal indifference of time was like a vast, inexorable army of

locusts...” As a life-term prisoner, I have always considered time as a driving force in storytelling. I am fixated on doing my time in a way that makes me better at understanding who I am. I, too, seek insight into how I got where I am. I know there will come a time when I must closely look at my life and talk to everyday-people about some painful moments. *That* is my test. What is interesting about Leyner’s narrative is that he has recruited himself, the Imaginary Intern, to dissect the most significant events of his life. “... it’s nice to have a friend, a comrade, a ‘paracosm,’ whatever, to share things with,” writes Leyner about life and his alter ego. The advantage for lifers is that they too can do this in order to learn about themselves. Take a step back, and be unbiased about who you are.

## When Who’s at Fault Doesn’t Matter

By SQ Reviews

### MOVIE REVIEW

*Into the Woods* is a story that spreads enough blame around to indict half the cast as villains, but the movie ends with a restorative justice message. It takes a whole community to destroy a community; conversely, all members of society working together can make communities whole. Director and producer Rob Marshall brought to the screen Stephen Sondheim’s acclaimed musical medley of familiar fairytales and surprised the members of SQ Reviews (who as a rule do not watch musicals). Cinderella (Anna Kendrick), Red Riding Hood (Lilla Crawford), and Rapunzel (Mackenzie Mauzy) get lost in the proverbial woods, each in her own way. The Baker (James Corden) and the Wife (Emily Blunt) swindle little boy Jack (Daniel Huttlestone) out of his mother’s cow with magic beans to fulfill a deal

the couple made with the wicked Witch to remove the Witch’s fertility curse. Reviewers meet to discuss the musical in the lot between the Education Department and the San Quentin News. We spend the first five minutes staring silently at Juan Meza who smiles, unfazed by our disapproval. He’s the one who insisted we “do something different” and review a musical. “I’m just going to get this out of the way,” Emile DeWeaver begins. “I liked it.” “It was a musical,” says Rahsaan Thomas. “I couldn’t in good conscience watch more than 30 percent of it. If I ever get married, I might raise that standard to 50 percent.” Meza turns to talk to DeWeaver, pointedly ignoring Thomas. “It was interesting, right?” says Meza. “All those stories inter-

connected. I liked most of it; I wanted to shake Jack, though. That kid was dumb.” Everyone is laughing, but Thomas says, “That’s wrong; you can’t call a kid dumb.” “The boy was an idiot,” Meza says. “His own mother told him every day: *You’re stupid.*” “Okay, I get your irritation,” DeWeaver says. “But I wonder if being told he was stupid everyday made Jack stupid?” “You’re such a liar, you’re not wondering at all,” Meza says, and everyone laughs again. DeWeaver has been sitting in too many Patten College classes where instructors ask leading questions to which they think they know the answers. Meza continues, “I see your point. In real life, that’s true, but in this movie, Jack was just dumb. I mean, his mom would

say it, and she’d look sad. She was just stating the plain facts: *My kid is an idiot.*” “Jack’s mom reminded me of my family,” DeWeaver says. “They used to say I had the Devil in me. They did exorcisms; my father had the house anointed with holy oil. They didn’t do it out of maliciousness, but I began to believe I was on the Devil’s side of things and internalized it. Often in prison, people are treated like animals. Some resist, but many internalize the treatment and act out as animals. Careless judgments can create monsters.” Thomas agrees and switches topics. “Did anyone find the song between Red Riding Hood and the Baker creepy: *I know I shouldn’t have strayed from the path, but I was excited by the wolf. He wanted to teach me things.*” “That part was just wrong,” says Meza, “and I was bothered that they tried to make it right. That creepiness aside, I liked the



restorative justice message. Everybody had a right to be mad at everybody, but they had to stop blaming and get to solutions. Everybody had a voice, everyone told their stories, and everyone faced their demons. Nobody commits an offense alone; it’s a societal problem.” Contributors: Emile DeWeaver, Rahsaan Thomas, Juan Meza, and Jonathan Chiu



# ‘Dirty Look’ Gets Teen Girl More Prison Time

*‘The only misconduct tickets she received prior to the new sentence were for defying an order and giving a guard an ‘intimidating look,’ and yelling...’*

By John Lam  
Journalism Guild Writer

Youths sentenced to adult prisons in Michigan are protesting with lawsuits. Plaintiffs are suing Michigan for mistreating youth held in the adult prison system, the *Huffington Post* reported. One of the plaintiffs is Jamie, a 17-year-old girl from Detroit who was originally

sentenced to two concurrent terms of six months for throwing a brick at a family friend. (A police report noted that the brick may not have hit the friend). She was sent to serve time in the adult prison system, but she was referred back to court for resentencing, after prison officials reported her for “misconduct” she committed while she was there. “The only misconduct tick-

ets she received prior to the new sentence were for defying an order and giving a guard an ‘intimidating look,’ and yelling at an inmate who allegedly had slapped her on the back of the head,” the *Post* reported. A spokesman for the Michigan Department of Corrections said that she “failed in every instance” to live up to the conditions the judge laid out.

During the court hearing, prison officials told the judge that the girl had “no motivation to be involved” in peer groups and missed school, which she was required to attend. But investigations by the *Post* revealed that Jamie was in segregation (not for disciplinary reasons), which prevented her from attending school. Her sentencing judge, James Chylinski, revoked Jamie’s special youth status, which would have cleared her record after the completion of her time. Instead, the judge changed her sentence from six months in prison to 11 months to a maximum of five years. Judge Chylinski said, for kids who come from unstable environments, the youth pro-

gram, where some kids serve their time in adult prisons, is an opportunity, “like sending them away to college.” He added, “It’s actually an effort to try to help them, to lock them up; it’s less punishment and more trying to rehabilitate them, making them go to school.” “At 17, you are literally still going through puberty and hormones are changing,” said Kristen Staley, associate director of youth justice policy at the Michigan Council on Crime and Delinquency. “Moreover, factors such as early trauma or mental illness can stunt this growth... MDOC staff is not thoroughly trained to handle teenagers and this incident is clear indication of that.”

## A Trail of Sexual Abuse Snares Teen Girl Victims

By Rahsaan Thomas  
Staff Writer

Imagine being a 13-year-old girl and being raped by someone who is supposed to protect and love you, then fleeing only to land in the hands of police who arrested you for truancy or landing in the hands of a pimp and eventually being arrested for prostitution. Instead of helping, the criminal justice system is punishing Black and Brown girls for being victims of sexual abuse, according to a Human Rights Project for Girls report called: *The Sexual Abuse to Prison Pipeline: The Girl’s Story*. “When poor Black and Brown girls are bought and sold for sex, they are rarely regarded or treated as victims of trafficking. Instead, they are children jailed for prostitution,” wrote report author Ma-

lika Saada Saar. Sex abuse victim Nadiyah Shereff said, “I was locked up ten different times within a two year period. Inside Juvie I met other girls like myself who were there for prostitution, running away and truancy. All of us were from the same neighborhoods, poor families, and seemed to have the same disposition of trauma, anger mixed with hopelessness. We were not violent girls. We were girls who were hurting,” according to the report. “Sexual abuse is one of the primary predictors of girls’ detention,” said Saar. Eighty-one percent of the girls locked up in California and South Carolina reported sexual abuse, said the report. In Oregon, 93 percent of the girls in its juvenile justice system experienced sexual or physical abuse.

The FBI reported African-American children make up 59 percent of all prostitution-related arrests under 18 years old in America. Girls under 18 make up 76 percent of all prostitution arrests. In South Carolina, the caregiver sexually abused 69 percent of the girls and dating violence occurred with 42 percent. African-American girls are 33.2 percent of the youth incarcerated, but only 14 percent of the general population, according to the report. The system views the way victims respond to rape as crimes. Criminal offenses that are common responses to living in abusive environments include truancy, substance abuse and running away. “Once inside, girls encounter a system that is often ill-equipped to identify and treat the violence and trauma that lie at the root of victimized girls’ arrests. More harmful still is the significant risk that the punitive environment will re-trigger girls’ trauma and even subject them to new incidents of sexual victimization, which can exponentially compound the profound harms inflicted by the original abuse,” said Saar. The *Human Rights Project for Girls Report* offered several suggestions as steps to close the sexual abuse to prison pipeline. In sum, they recommended training staff to be aware of the effects of sexual abuse and to treat its victims as victims, including abolishing zero-tolerance school disciplinary policies for sex-abuse victims and attacking the buyer’s demand for sleeping with minors instead of focusing on the abused, along with granting immunity to trafficked youth or funding diversion programs that help provide child victims with family support services, life skills training, and assistance with job placement, housing, education and vocational skills. “We must surface the hidden and disregarded realities of how vulnerable Black and Brown girls are treated differently, and indeed punished, for their experiences of sexual and physical abuse. We cannot continue to leave them behind because their lives matter,” said Saar.

## Girls Court Designed To Give Help Instead Of Incarceration

It’s called Girls Court and it’s designed to provide resources and rehabilitation instead of prosecution for at-risk girls who have a history of prostitution. “Girls Court brings an all-hands-on-deck approach to the lives of vulnerable girls, linking them to social service agencies, providing informal Saturday sessions on everything from body image to legal jargon, and offering a team of adults in whom they can develop trust. And while still in its early years, the system is showing promise,” *The New York Times* reported. Despite the success of such programs, in most states, including California, young prostitutes continue to be prosecuted as criminals, despite a growing consensus that minors involved in the sex trade are victims instead of criminals, the newspaper reported in January. However, things are beginning to change. In Alameda County, there is now a Girls Court designed to assist children who were recruited as prostitutes.

other at-risk girls,” the *Times* reported. “You’re stepping up to the plate,” Judge Rhonda Burgess said to Toni from the bench before recommending that she be taken off probation. Judge Burgess says she tries to understand the back story, the forces, often within their own families, that have made the young women feel diminished. Many girls come to court unaware that they are being exploited. “Once they begin to see it, they see their own power and have a chance at fashioning their own destiny,” the judge added. “The optimal strategies for helping these young people are still being developed, but training judges, lawyers and others to identify them is a first step,” says Dr. Ellen Wright Clayton, a professor of pediatrics and law at Vanderbilt University. “What is really needed is a collaborative approach that directs people to services rather than prosecution,” Clayton stated.

In Alameda County, which includes Oakland, a survey last year of 113 sexually exploited youths by West Coast Children’s Clinic found that 75 percent of such youngsters here and in a neighboring county had experienced abuse and neglect. Alameda County’s H.E.A.T. Watch Unit was designed to aggressively go after people who traffic in women. It was created by District Attorney Nancy O’Malley in 2006, and as of last year, 111 exploiters of children under 18 had been convicted. “By coming together, working collaboratively and providing a comprehensive response, we will save lives and we will be more effective at preventing child sex trafficking from happening,” said O’Malley.

—By John Lam

## 7 of 10 Women Behind Bars Are Mothers

By Juan Haines  
Managing Editor

In the United States, 1.3 million children have mothers who are incarcerated, according to a report released late last year. Seven out of 10 women in prison are mothers and two-thirds are mothers with minor children. The *Women’s Foundation of California* found women in California are nearly two times more likely than men to be in prison for petty theft with a prior conviction and three times more likely to be in prison for petty forgery or fraud. Since 2011, California has given counties more responsibility for criminal justice policy decisions, meaning those same dynamics now may be playing out within county jails, the report finds. When Proposition 47, passed last November, it retroactively reduced some minor theft related crimes from felonies to misdemeanors—drug related crimes (small amounts) were also reduced to misdemeanors. From the period of Nov. 5, 2014 to Sept 16, a total of 4,430 inmates have been released

from state prison under Proposition 47—including 36 women through the post-release community supervision program, 55 discharged from their sentence, and 250 paroled. A review of statistics from the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation reveals that there are gender differences in treatment within the criminal justice system, that long-term impacts of a felony conviction differ between men and women, and women’s histories of abuse prior to incarceration impact their experiences while incarcerated and after release. The vast majority of incarcerated women (85 to 90 percent) have experienced physical or sexual abuse, the report finds. The report states that since women are more likely than men to be convicted of drug felonies, they have more difficulty accessing public benefits and housing. For example, a 2001–2006 study of four diverse states found that approximately 61 percent of men had secured employment post-release compared to only 37 percent of formerly incarcerated women.



# Domestic Violence Victims Lack Follow-Up Help

By Juan Haines  
Managing Editor

Nearly half of women and approximately two-thirds of men did not receive services after being victims of sexual violence, stalking, or intimate partner violence, according to a survey by the Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).

The 2011 survey, released late last year, found sexual violence, stalking, and intimate partner violence affect the lives of millions in the United States.

“This suggests the critical need for primary prevention to focus on promoting healthy relational behaviors and patterns that can be carried forward into adulthood. Continued surveillance of sexual violence, stalking, and intimate partner violence is needed to understand these public health problems better and to serve as a measuring stick by which the success of prevention efforts can be gauged,” the survey advises.

The CDC reported an estimated 19 percent of women and 2 percent of men have been raped during their lifetimes. An estimated 15 percent of women and nearly 6 percent of men have been a victim of stalking during their lifetimes.

Victimization could lead to “serious short- and long-term consequences including physical injury, poor mental health, and chronic physical health problems,” CDC finds. “For some persons, violence victimization results in hospitalization, disability, or death. Furthermore, previous research indicates that victimization as a child or adolescent increases the likelihood that victimization will reoccur in adulthood.”

The majority of victims of sexual violence knew their perpetrators, the survey finds.

Almost half of female victims of rape had at least one perpetrator who was an acquaintance, and an estimated 45 percent of female rape victims

had at least one perpetrator who was an intimate partner.

Alcohol and/or drugs were used in more than half of women victimized by an acquaintance.

About 44 percent of women and 23 percent of men experienced other forms of sexual violence during their lifetimes, such as “being made to penetrate, sexual coercion, unwanted sexual contact, and non-contact unwanted sexual experiences.”

Many victims of sexual violence, stalking, and intimate partner violence were first victimized at a young age.

Among female victims of rape, about 79 percent were first raped before age 25 years and about 40 percent before age 18 years. Among male victims who were made to penetrate a perpetrator, an estimated 70 percent were victimized before age 25 years; about 21 percent before age 18 years.

An estimated 54 percent of

female stalking victims and 48 percent of male stalking victims were first stalked before age 25 years; about 16 percent of female victims and 21 percent of male victims before age 18 years.

Finally, among victims of sexual violence, physical violence, or stalking by an intimate partner, an estimated 71 percent of women and 58 percent of men first experienced these or other forms of intimate partner violence before age 25 years; about 23 percent of female victims and 14 percent of male victims before age 18 years.

A variety of tactics were used to stalk victims during their lifetimes. An estimated 62 percent of female stalking victims were approached, such as at their home or work; an estimated 55 percent received unwanted messages, such as text and voice messages; an estimated 55 percent received unwanted telephone calls, including hang-ups.

In addition, nearly half of

female stalking victims were watched, followed, or spied on with a listening device, camera, or global positioning system (GPS) device.

- An estimated 24 percent of women were fearful
- Almost 21 percent were concerned for their safety
- 20 percent experienced one or more PTSD symptoms
- About 13 percent were physically injured
- Almost 7 percent needed medical care
- Nearly 9 percent needed legal services
- Just over 9 percent missed at least 1 day of work or school
- About 4 percent needed housing services
- Just over 3 percent needed victim advocate services
- Almost 3 percent contacted a crisis hotline
- Nearly 2 percent became pregnant as a result of intimate partner violence
- About 1.5 percent contracted a sexually transmitted infection.

# Anti-Prostitution Activists Combat Sex Trafficking

By Rahsaan Thomas  
Staff Writer

A group of former pimps met with anti-prostitution activists to help them combat the huge sex trafficking industry.

“How would you feel if this was your daughter or sister?” asked former pimp Louis Scott at the San Quentin forum. “What would you do if they were forced into it?”

It is a crime that most people think won’t affect them, but it’s happening here in the United States, and it’s not limited to people from the ghetto, said pediatric trauma nurse Jessica Munoz.

“Being young and vulnerable is all it takes to get caught up in the life (sex trafficking),” said Munoz of the non-profit organization Hoola Na Pua, which means: “New Life for Our Children.”

San Quentin community volunteer Kathleen Jackson helped set up the event after being asked to interview pimps on their perspective on how to stop trafficking.

“I didn’t know any pimps. I had to find some,” said Jackson.

Inmates Scott, Harry Smith and others answered the call. Inmate Miguel Sifuentes helped facilitate the forum called STEP (Sex Trafficking Exploitation Prevention).

Scott said his mother was a prostitute and his father her pimp. Many of his 26 brothers and sisters followed suit. He credits his children not following in his footsteps to teaching them better.

Smith said he went from being an innocent middle-class Southern boy and walk-on basketball player for San Francisco State University to becoming a pimp. “A woman recruited me. I thought we were boyfriend and girlfriend. Then my whole focus changed from trying to get in the NBA to getting money. This lifestyle rapes all parties of their innocence.”

Inmate Donald Ray Walker Jr. took responsibility for being a



Photo by Brian Assey

Panel of inmates and organizers discussing solutions to sex trafficking

customer.

“I was in the U.S. Navy. I went to all these countries and engaged. The military is a huge enabler of the sex trafficking,” said Walker.

“Hearing your story gives me a different perspective. It shows what change looks like. People are people,” said Erica Beedle.

The event started with a public service announcement created by the San Quentin Prison Report.

“Speak up and speak out so we can help you escape,” Scott said from the screen to girls caught up in prostitution.

Scott warned pimps the penalty is a mandatory minimum of 15 years to life and being registered sex offender.

Scott received 199 years for pimping and pandering.

Betty Ann Boeving from the Bay Area Anti-Traffic Coalition plans to use STEP public service announcements at the Super Bowl to bring awareness.

“People think traffic only has to do with freeways,” said Boeving.

Boeving said she and 12 friends started the Freedom Summit. In May, they held it in Levi Stadium, and Condoleezza Rice attended.

Ken Peterson and Allan Priest

of 3Strands Global want to get the PSAs played in schools also. ([3strandsglobal.com](http://3strandsglobal.com))

The group heard ways pimps lure girls into the life.

“We prey upon those with low self-esteem, who don’t have a crowd around them – the vulnerable. Like a wolf pack, you seek out the weak,” said Scott.

Sex trafficking survivor Marya Edgar said that, although raised in a strict Christian home, a prostitute lured her into a pimp’s hands. He trafficked her to Nevada and beat her every time she tried to leave. The college student escaped when the pimp went to prison on another matter.

As of February 2014, California prisons held 7,932 offenders convicted with a third strike who are sentenced to a minimum of 25 years to life in prison. Of these, 3,886 or nearly 50 percent, are older than age 50.

Life termers released on parole have been statistically proven to be far less likely to re-offend, state statistics show.

At the beginning of the state’s

“It is vital that education gets out there. I didn’t know that there were people out there looking to help me,” said Edgar. “I stayed because I was being beaten.”

“Remember the hotline, because it is a great resource. They have a texting and number to call. Eight-two percent didn’t know who to call to get out. Many said, ‘I wouldn’t run to the police; I run from them,’” said Boeving.

The groups came up with several possible solutions.

“Prostitutes are locked up for doing something that they are forced to do. They are survivors, not criminals,” said Scott.

prison building boom in the early 1980s, adult and youth corrections accounted for 4 percent of California’s General Fund expenditures at \$1 billion per year. Today, it represents 9 percent of the total General Fund, approximately \$9.5 billion.

“Criminal justice policies that rely on building and operating more prisons to address community safety concerns are not sustainable and will not result in improved public safety,” California Penal Code reads.

Prostitutes aren’t let off the hook by the police because it is believed they will run straight back to their pimps, explained Munoz. There is talk about ways to process them through the system and out of the life.

Munoz has done a TED talk on sex trafficking. She and co-board member Aaron Schnobrich flew in from Hawaii for the July 22 forum.

Smith said, “The solution is to keep showing unconditional love, because sometimes kids are going to run and look for the love they are not getting in the home.”

Edgar said, “I suggest hotels have a card reader. Slide the ID to make sure it is valid so we can’t check in with fake IDs. That can stop a lot of under-age people and people with incorrect information from checking in.”

Jason Jones suggested, “Start in fifth grade, when they teach ‘em sex education, teach them about sex trafficking. Pimps think the younger I get them the easy it is to mold them. So we have to think the same,” said Jones.

The inmates produced a flyer with questions designed to awaken girls to the brainwashing. It will include the number to the national sex trafficking help hot line.

“It’s beautiful to see people from other walks of life that didn’t experience this growing up but are passionate about changing it,” said Jones.

“I’m excited to see another attempt to further chip away at the terrible three strikes law that has put thousands of people away for decades,” said Emily Harris, from Ella Baker Center for Human Rights. “These sentences are trumped up, tearing people away from their families and communities, while costing taxpayers billions of dollars.”

For more information, the website is [www.choose1.org](http://www.choose1.org). The AG web site is [www.oag.ca.gov](http://www.oag.ca.gov).

## CHOOSE1 Pushes Three Strikes Reform

Continued from Page 1

to public safety.

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# Supreme Court Justice Scalia’s Death Penalty Views ‘Dead Wrong’

By Thomas Gardner  
Journalism Guild Writer

U.S. Supreme Court Justice Antonin Scalia has expressed opinions about death penalty sentences that are dead wrong, said Tom Boggioni in an opinion piece published online by *Raw Story*.

Boggioni points to the case of Henry Lee McCollum, convicted for the rape and murder

of an 11-year-old girl more than 30 years ago.

Making reference to McCollum’s case in 1994, Scalia wrote that “a quiet death by lethal injection” should be considered “enviable” when compared to the murder of a little girl.

Fortunately, Scalia’s opinion didn’t speed up McCollum’s execution. Last year, McCollum and his half-brother, Leon

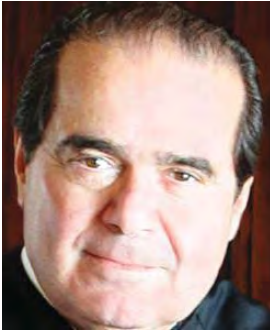
Brown, were cleared by investigators using DNA evidence and the two men were pardoned and released from prison.

Boggioni also noted that in 2001, after the Supreme Court had ordered a retrial in another controversial capital case, Scalia wrote this surprising opinion:

“This court has never held that the Constitution forbids the execution of a convicted

defendant who has had a full and fair trial but is later able to convince a habeas court that he is ‘actually’ innocent.”

Scalia’s written statement about the Constitution not protecting “actual innocence” was written well before McCollum’s death penalty was overturned. But by ignoring the finality of death penalties when wrongfully applied, Scalia acquiesced to the possible



Justice Antonin Scalia

execution of innocent people in the future.

# Rap Artists Who Sell Out for Money

By Rahsaan Thomas  
Staff Writer

Hip-hop went from having a positive voice to being dominated by images of drug dealers, pimps and gangsters by 1996. The Yard Talk panel discussed the materialization of rap in this segment of *Is Rap Your Daddy?*

Hip-hop music started with the Old School era, (1979 to 1987). “In the late 1980s, political content and Afrocentric musings were the most popular forms of rap music. And by the early 1990s, gangsta rap took center stage,” wrote James Peterson in *Dead Prezence: Money and Mortal Themes in Hip Hop Culture*.

“Eventually the recording industry contemplated rap music as a potential billion-dollar opportunity, directly as a result of the popularity of gangsta rap. Mass mediated rap music and

## Yard Talk

hip hop videos displaced the intimate, insulated urban development of the culture,” wrote Peterson. (p. 907).

**John “Yahya” Johnson:** “The music of today isn’t reflecting police abuse; it reflects drug use and materialism. You never heard Public Enemy talk about driving around in a Bentley. They spoke on real issues.”

**Demond Lewis:** “Our morals and ethics fly out the window when it comes to money.”

**David Jassy:** “A lot of MCs today wouldn’t have survived in the rap game back in ‘93. I remember people said that they didn’t understand rap. It had a language you had to be initiated to. Now it’s dumbed down so more people can understand it.”

Jassy’s thought echoes Jay-

Z’s lyrics, “*I dumb down for my audience to double my dollars,*” in his song *Moment of Clarity*, on the *Black Album*.

**Lewis:** “Those who run hip hop say that they are helping young black men make money, without saying they are exploiting them. KRS1 spoke against selling out; now it’s okay to sell out and be trash for the money.”

**Marcus Henderson:** “We aren’t a community no more. It’s all about I -- I-Phone, MySpace and taking selfies.”

**Antwan Williams:** “The road I wanted to take was urban. All I spoke about was pistols, killing, degrading women, balling out of control – just harming people. It didn’t reflect the life that I wanted or would wish for other people. Yet I felt it was

something I needed to write because I felt I would get further writing like that.”

Williams didn’t think the industry would accept him if he stuck to positive themes. Now he is Christian and delivers his truths in a sincere and aggressive way that gives praise to God and is accepted by everyone in San Quentin.

Underground artists aren’t making gangster-rap money, however. Must rap artists compromise their lyrics to survive?

Jay-Z rapped, “*If skills sold... I’d probably be, lyrically, Talib Kweli ...I can’t help the poor if I’m one of them,*” in *Moment of Clarity*.

Kweli raps about conscious social themes.

**Jassy:** “Even the most underground rapper, offered a deal that will change his life, it’s hard to turn that kind of money down if he’s experienced pov-

erty. As a listener, you want it to stay underground.”

**J. “Killa Clown” Medvin:** “I’d have to turn down a deal that involved only rapping about pimping and gangsters. I can’t be censored. I don’t knock the hustle, but I myself can’t do it. What I have to say is more important than money.”

The panel concluded that poverty and the desire for wealth make inner city youth susceptible to being used by the industry to turn profits. Instead of talking about real issues that impact their communities, they rap about vapid topics and material possessions they don’t actually have.

In part five of six of *Is Rap Your Daddy?*, the topic of whether rap can be turned back into a positive force will be discussed.

- **Trenise Ferreira**  
contributed to this story

# Prisoners Reaping the Benefits of the Health Fair

By Angelo Falcone  
Journalism Guild Writer

Significant events recently took place at San Quentin. An executive order from Gov. Jerry Brown prompted Warden Ron Davis to reduce the institution’s water usage. The water was further restricted because of a bacterial contamination. Several men fell ill to Legionnaires’ disease, a type of pneumonia, and Pontiac fever, a type of sinus infection caused by the Legionella bacteria in the water.

This month we asked two

## Asked On The Line

questions: “What did you like most about this year’s health fair? Among all the uses of water, which is most important to you?”

**David Le:** Acupressure was the highlight of the event for me. It was my first time getting acupressure. My most important use of water was to drink. (During acupressure, America College of Traditional Chinese Medicine volunteers placed ear

seeds on inmates’ ears. The seeds were supposed to cause relaxation and warm sensations.)

**Eusebio Gonzalez:** Everything was a grandiose experience for me. I liked everything about the health fair. The important use of water for me is for daily hygiene and use of the toilet. The water for the sink and toilet were the most important for me.

**Jesse Flores:** I really liked getting a toothbrush and toothpaste at the health fair. I need to take better care of my teeth. The most important use of water for me is to drink it and to cook with it.

**Syyen Hong:** What I liked most about the health fair were the chiropractors. Using the water for showers is the most important for me.

**Sonny Nguyen:** I liked the drum therapy. That was something new. To drink is the most important use of water for me. (During drum therapy, participants played the drums. The musical expression was meant to cause spiritual healing.)

**Brad Carney:** I did not attend the health fair. Using the water to drink is obviously the most important. Drinking water is critical. Bathing would definitely be number two.

**Eddie Hollingsworth:** My favorite part of the health fair was

being part of the atmosphere. The important use of water for me is to drink. Number two is for showers.

**Orlando Harris:** My favorite part was seeing how the men were interacting with our outside guests, how men were able to take advantage of the information, and seeing the volunteers give freely of themselves. For me, bathing and drinking would be the most basic necessities of water.

**Timothy Thompson:** What I like the most is that there are individuals from the outside coming in here to make us aware of good health practices. Drinking water is the most important because I play a lot of sports.

**Forrest Jones:** What I liked most about the health fair was the outside people’s passion to come in and see to it that we have good health. Water is important for my health, survival and hygiene.

# \$8,000 Raised to Help At-Risk Youths

Continued from Page 1

torship.”

Landrin Kelly started the foundation after his son, Terrance Kelly, was murdered in 2004.

Terrance “T.K.” Kelly was born April 23, 1986, in Oakland and was raised in Richmond. He graduated in June 2004 from De La Salle, where “he never lost a football game and accepted a scholarship to the University of Oregon.” His family says he was not involved in drugs or gangs, but he was shot and killed in Richmond just two days before departing to school, the Richmond Standard reported.

“Every anniversary of his death, his birthday, Christmas, all the holidays... I start get-

ting depressed, start feelin’ bad, not wanna get up, not wanna do anything...It be tough sometimes,” said Landrin Kelly.

His wife, Mary, commented, “I have to try everything to motivate him, and with the foundation, that’s the one thing that motivates him ... I tell him, ‘Terrance wants you to do this.’ We have to go out there. We have to help these kids.’ There’s one thing Terrance said to him years ago. He started off coaching Terrance and Terrance used today, ‘Dad, a lotta these kids don’t have a father, so you’re like their father figure.’”

“A lot of kids look up to him; they like what we’re doing. We’re presenting them with opportunities that they wouldn’t otherwise have through helping

them further with their education. We also take them on a lot of different excursions – we take them out of their normal surroundings – and we show them the good, the bad and the ugly. We take them to the prisons. We take them to the coroner’s office – we actually take them and show them where Terrance’s resting place is,” said Mrs. Kelly.

“The program is definitely not a ‘scared-straight’ program, but we want to show them life is basically all about consequences. So we are constantly giving them options other than street life.”

Special Olympics involves children and adults with intellectual disabilities in a variety of athletic competitions.

October is the sixth of seven months with thirty-one days. This year, October has five Thursdays, five Fridays and five Saturdays. Columbus Day is on Mon., Oct. 12, Boss's Day is on Fri., Oct. 16 and Halloween is on Sat. Oct. 31. A full moon is expected on Tue., Oct. 27. For members of Christian community, the Feast of the Holy Guardian Angels occurs on Fri., Oct. 2 and for St. Francis of Assisi on Sun., Oct. 4.

According to the World Almanac, October is National Domestic Violence Awareness Month, National Breast Cancer Awareness Month, Diversity Awareness Month, and National Popcorn Poppin' Month.

There are two astrological signs in September: Libra, the sign of the Scales (Sep. 23 to Oct. 23) and Scorpio, the sign of the Scorpion (Oct. 24 to Nov. 21). The Birthstone for the month of October is the Opal or Tourmaline.



**1. Sacramento** – A spike in suicide and attempted suicides in a California women’s prison is raising concerns, *The Associated Press* reports. Four suicides and 20 attempts were reported in the past 18 months at the California Institution for Women in San Bernardino County. Before then there were only three suicides in 14 years. A prison spokeswoman said investigators were unable to identify one single underlying issue as responsible.

**2. Sacramento** – Tens of thousands of former inmates can vote after their release from prison, Secretary of State Alex Padilla has announced. Padilla said he will not pursue an appeal filed by former Secretary of State Debra Bowen over a 2014 court decision favoring the plaintiffs. The decision applies to persons convicted of nonviolent felonies. “It is not lost on me that persons of color are disproportionately represented in our correctional institutions and that undeniable disparities exists,” Padilla said at a news conference. Superior Court Judge Evelio Grillo ruled that the Realignment law approved by the Legislature supported reintegrating former inmates into society, including granting them the right to vote after they completed their sentences.

**3. Sacramento** – Federal Judge Lawrence K. Karlton, who played a key role in improving California prisons, died July 11 at age 80. He was instrumental in decisions forcing reduction of prison crowding and improving conditions for mentally ill prisoners. Karlton was appointed to the federal bench by President Carter. He “was one of the leading judges in the nation in forcing California to provide basic



services to severely mentally ill prisoners,” said Donald Specter, director of the nonprofit Prison Law Office in Berkeley, which brought suit on crowding issues.

**4. Corcoran** – Seventy-four inmates were honored at a graduation ceremony on June 12 at the California Substance Abuse Treatment Facility and State Prison at Corcoran. They had passed the GED test or had completed their high school educations. The audience included friends, family and staff. “Make this the beginning of a new chapter in your education. Take some college classes and work toward your degree.” “Don’t let this be the end,” said Associate Superintendent of Education Jennifer Wynn.

**5. Los Angeles** – The Los Angeles County Sheriff’s Department has agreed to federal oversight of its scandal-plagued jail system. The agreement announced establishes an independent monitor, overseen by a federal judge, who will make sure the reforms are carried out. Richard Drooyan, a former Los Angeles Police Commission president who served on a blue-ribbon commission that was highly critical of Sheriff’s Department operations, was appointed as the monitor. Sheriff Jim McDonnell said he welcomes the oversight. He took office in December and previously served on a citizens’ commission on jail violence. Many of the reforms required by the settlement are completed or well underway,

he said.

**6. Phoenix, Ariz.** – Immigration officials have released some 200 Central Americans from family detention centers, the *Arizona Republic* reports. Most of those released were women and children. The newspaper said the number of women and children crossing the border from Central America dropped sharply this year after some 120,000 who crossed illegally in the 2014 fiscal year. Also, the *Republic* said the Government Accountability Office reported officers may have illegally deported thousands of unaccompanied Mexicans under age 14 in the past five years.

**7. Alabama** – Montez Spradley who spent about nine-and-a-half

years in prison, with more than three years on Death Row was released from prison after being convicted for a murder he did not commit. In 2011, the state’s appeals court ruled that his trial was unconstitutionally tainted by the admission of inadmissible evidence and because a subsequent hearing in 2013 revealed that a key witness against him had been paid for her dubious testimony, the *Marshall Project* reports.

**8. Dover, Del.** – A federal lawsuit accuses the Delaware prison system of unconstitutionally locking mentally ill prisoners in solitary confinement without proper evaluation, monitoring and treatment. The American Civil Liberties Union and Community Legal Aid Society filed the suit. “These circumstances deprive prisoners of any meaningful mental health treatment, because they are deprived of reasonably frequent care and because they are denied the opportunity to engage in normal human interaction, such as working, participating in educational or rehabilitative programs, or attending religious services, which promote mental health and well-being,” the complaint states.

**9. Connecticut** – The Legislature ruled in 2012 that the state’s death penalty is unconstitutional, but only to crimes committed after passage of the law. In August, the state’s Supreme Court ruled that the 2012 ban should extend to all of the state’s 11 Death Row prisoners, *The Huffington Post* reports, turn to prison within three years than those who didn’t participate. The study found that every dollar invested in prison education programs saved nearly \$5 on later incarceration costs.

Nebraska Prison Offers Construction Certification Program

Ten-week course puts inmates in a classroom for about five weeks and on a job site for another five weeks

**By James R. Abernathy Jr.**  
Journalism Guild Writer

A prison program in Nebraska provides inmates with construction training and pre-apprenticeship certification.

The Nebraska prison system offers the program, which is run by Prairie Gold Homes Inc., a nonprofit organization

that teaches inmates how to build houses.

“The 10-week course puts inmates in a classroom for about five weeks and on a job site for another five weeks,” Renee Bauer, executive director of Prairie Gold, told *The Associated Press*.

To qualify, inmates must have a record of good behavior,

be nearing the end of their sentence and have a GED or high school diploma.

“I never did this before,” said Angelo Douglas, a 22-year-old inmate at the Community Corrections Center-Lincoln. “This is a great learning experience.”

The program consists of four courses per year and trains 6 to 12 offenders each course.

The course also provides CPR and first aid training, as well as resumes writing and job interview training. Offenders who graduate receive a pre-apprenticeship certificate through the Home Builders Institute.

These training skills are designed to help make offenders more employable while reduc-

ing the cost of training for their future employers, the AP reported.

“The program helps inmates better survive outside of prison,” said Mark Wentz, adult education principal for the Nebraska state prison system.

“It gives us vocational training aspect to help our inmates transition to the outside.”

Former Drug Addicts Create Recovery Group in Church Basement

‘I’ve seen a lot of people throw their lives away when they don’t have someone to intervene. I want to be the person who can intervene’

**By John Lam**  
Journalism Guild Writer

Two former Nebraska addicts are leading the way towards recovery for others.

Harry Solomon, 54, has been clean and sober for 13 years and is the founder of a recovery group called New Playgrounds that provides recovering addicts help and support, the *Sioux City Journal* reports.

Established in the basement of a church two years ago, the

recovery group meets every second Sunday of the month to help each other maintain structure in their lives, complete Drug Court and stay drug-free after completion.

Drug Court is a “diversionary program ... in which community volunteers help guide adult and juvenile drug and alcohol offenders through recovery and probation by setting up a series of requirements that keeps sobriety as the focus. The goal is to rehabilitate substance abusers and reduce

recidivism by giving them individualized attention,” the *Journal* reported in March.

Once a graduate finishes Drug Court, he or she loses the structure that it provides, therefore increasing a former addict’s propensity for relapse.

New Playground is hoping to support addicts’ transition after Drug Court.

As someone who had his share of experience of being on drug binges and incarceration. Dustin Suppi, 28, a former addict and graduate of

Drug Court, joined Solomon to help others on the path towards recovery.

“I’ve seen a lot of people throw their lives away and they don’t have someone to intervene. I want to be the person who can intervene,” Suppi said.

Solomon and Suppi wanted Drug Court alumni, as well as those currently in the program, to be able to come and seek advice on maintaining the good behavior they’ve learned from Drug Court.

“There’s not many places for people to go talk,” said Suppi.

“I think people actually want help, but they don’t know where to go find it,” Solomon said.

Although Solomon and Suppi aspire to help many more people in recovery, few know about their program, and only six people attended their last meeting. Undaunted, Suppi continues to post fliers about the program all around Sioux City, hoping to attract some attention.



# Bob Stix’s Spirit Guides Giant Win, 10-7

By Marcus Henderson  
Journalism Guild Writer

It’s going, going, it’s gone! San Quentin Giant’s Nico Vargas smashed a walk-off three RBI home run to overcome the visiting Los Angeles Dodgertown team in extra innings 10-7.

With two outs in the bottom of the 10th, a single from Giant Ke Lam Nghiep and a walk on C.J. Johnson kept the Giants alive for Vargas.

“Today was a special day and to come up with a big hit in front of all these people was great,” said Vargas.

The game was dedicated to Bob Stix, who passed March 11. Stix came to play as a catcher in San Quentin in the 1950s with his Army team. One of his last wishes was for some of his ashes to be spread on the field and that his family witness a game. Six members of his family were present. His daughter, Amy Stix, threw out the opening pitch.

“Dad is smiling big. This was his spirit and personality, coming here talking to people. He was always telling us to come here for the experience. I think we got much more out of



Photo by David Stix

Catcher Bob Stix (top left) with Presidio army baseball team back the 1950’s inside San Quentin for a game

this. It’s a reminder that we are a part of the same big family.” she said.

The Giants overcame a 6-1 deficit in the seventh; in front of about 60 on-lookers on that warm Aug.15 day. Singles by Ruben Harper and Lam set up a John Appley triple to start the rally. Richard Zorn singled to score Appley. Dodger pitcher Dale Eby walked the next two batters. With bases loaded, Harper belted a line drive to

the left field gate for a double, scoring two for the tie 6-6. Eby struck out the next batter to close the inning.

“Today was pretty special. To have someone’s family to come here, as one of their last wishes, makes you proud to be a part of this tradition. I think we gave them an exciting game,” said Appley.

The Dodgers scored in the ninth for the 7-6 lead. Giants Appley walked the first two

batters. Dodger, Mike Gin moved to third on a sacrifice fly to deep center. A single up the first base gap by David Liptz scored Gin. Appley struck out the next batter to end the top of the inning.

The Giants answered to tie the score, 7-7. Vargas hit a single and stole second. Appley walked. The Giants advance the runners on a double steal with one out. Zorn singled down the first base line to

score Vargas.

The Dodgers put in closer Bill Moreno, who struck out the next two batters to send the game into the 10th.

“I was apprehensive about coming. I know now you have to hold on to this type of experience,” Moreno said. “People tell you stories about this place. I say, don’t let other people influence you. Try it yourself.”

Ted Berg, a sport writer from *USA Today*, added “I came down here from New York. Some of my friends, who played for the Mission invited me to play these guys (Giants) last week. I was so impressed that I called my editor and asked could I write the story. I don’t think this program is happening anywhere in the country. I got a chance to come back and witness a team that traveled from L.A. to play these guys and a family honoring their father’s last wishes.”

Dodger Bob Pone concluded, “This was amazing. I just returned from Italy the day before. I don’t even know what time zone I’m in. But this was on my bucket list, to experience playing here. I also wish for my family to experience this.”

# Count Leaves Dodgertown Up Over A’s, 13-9

The night game between the San Quentin A’s and the visiting Los Angeles Dodgertown was called in the fifth inning due to institutional count time. The Dodgers had the last at-bat and were leading, 13-9.

Dodgers Coach/player Aaron Levinson said, “This is our annual pilgrimage. We come here to compete.”

The Dodgers play in the Dodgertown West League that consists of five teams and 75 players. They are in the process of their playoff run for the Men’s Senior Baseball League.

The Dodgers showed up in their multi-colored uniforms representing the different teams they played in Cuba this year.

“Playing in Cuba is similar to here. You have the same

factor of the unknown. The field looks the same (dried out from the drought) and the guys couldn’t even practice on the field without approval. But coming here gave me a whole different opinion on rehabilitation,” said Dodger Lance Aguila.

The game started out with both teams pitchers struggling. Dodger Bill Moreno gave up five runs in the first inning.

The A’s Anthony Denard and Royce Rose singled. John “Dunnie” Windham tripled to score both runners. Bilal Coleman walked and Reggie Hunt, Anthony Redwood and Chris Marshall singled to bring in runs for the 5-0 lead.

Dodger Emiliano Love made a driving catch to end the inning.

The Dodgers put up three runs in the second. Paul Galletti singled and Matt Demasi doubled. A’s pitcher Isaiah Thompson-Bonilla walked Mike Gin to load the bases. Mike Labanowski belted a double to score two runs. Gin scored on a sacrifice fly. The A’s got out the inning with a strikeout, for the 5-3 lead.

The A’s scored in the second for the 6-3 lead. The Dodgers scored three runs in the third for the 6-6 tie. Thompson-Bonilla walked the first three batters to load the bases. Singles by Levinson, Galletti and Moreno all scored runs. The A’s got out of the inning on a double play and a pop fly.

The Dodgers took a 9-6 lead in the fourth. Thompson-Bonilla once again walked

the first three batters to load the base. Next David Liptz smashed the ball for a double and two RBIs.

“Man it’s real laid back here. I don’t feel like I’m in a prison; I feel like I’m at the park,” said Liptz.

The A’s put in pitcher Gary “Cool-Aid” Townes, who gave up a single to Lewis Cohen for a run. Townes struck out the next batter and closed with two pop flies.

“Not a lot of people get a chance to do this. We know why these guys are here. We just want to give something to people who don’t have a lot of freedom,” said Cohen.

The A’s tied the game 9-9 in the fourth. Carlyle “Otter” Blake singled, stole second and moved to third on a sacrifice

fly. Windham singled Blake home and then stole second. Coleman singled, leaving Hunt to smash a triple and two RBIs.

In the fifth, the Dodgers scored four runs for the 13-9 lead. With the bases loaded, a Galletti bunt caught the A’s defense off guard to score a run. Townes walked in a run and Labanowski doubled for two runs.

As night fell on the Lower Yard, the Aug. 15 game was called.

“This is a real great moment. You feel every emotion when you come here. You feel sad, happy and some fear all balled up into one. And all of us ending this game huddled in prayer is truly memorable,” said Dodger Demasi.

–By Marcus Henderson

# Anaheim Angels Score in 10<sup>th</sup> to Beat Giants, 9-6

The San Quentin baseball scoreboard proclaimed “Field of Dreams,” when a visiting team from Southern California encountered enthusiastic baseball players, and not just incarcerated men.

“When we put on that uniform, we are ballplayers and not inmates,” said Giant Rasheed Lockheart. “That’s how I think they see us. We appreciate them coming to play us. Some people’s own families don’t travel this far to visit you. Baseball is bigger than incarceration.”

The visiting Anaheim Angels battled for 10 innings against the S.Q. Giants, winning, 9-6.

The Angels are the Men’s Senior Baseball League World Series champs. They traveled hundreds of miles over six

hours for the competition and love of the game.

“Out of all our games we played this season, this is the game most people want to hear about; because you can’t bring phones or camera, so it’s all about the story-telling,” said Angels Head Coach, Rod Shipman.

Before and during the game, Shipman taught some baseball mechanics, from how to properly hold the bat, to seeing the pitches, to the way you should turn to take a pitch. For the pitchers, he taught the different angles to release the ball. Shipman also shared the importance of keeping stats.

“You build your game plan around stats and that’s how we enter our tournaments,” said Shipman. “I’ve been around baseball for 58 years. I de-

veloped a lot of players. I’ve worked with different pro organizations as a scout. Now I run the Halo Baseball Club, which consists of four teams and 60 members.”

After an early 2-2 tie, the Angels added four runs in the eighth. Anthony Mitchell hit a single. Doug Ireland belted a line drive double to deep right field to score Mitchell.

Next Phil Shipman hit a single and Sidney Jackson walked. With the bases loaded, Gaston Escudero smashed a shot to deep center field for a double and two RBIs.

The Giants scored two runs in the eighth to close the gap at 6-4 off an error.

With the bases loaded, Angels catcher P. Shipman overthrew third trying to catch a Giant player cheating off the

base. The right fielder couldn’t reach the ball in time, scoring two runs.

The Giants came up big in the ninth. After the Angel’s pitcher walked John Appley, Nico Vargas smashed a double to center field. With the tying runs in place, Don Spence belted a line drive to deep left field to score both players. The Giants bench erupted as the score tied, 6-6.

Going into the 10th, Angel Mitchell was hit with a pitch. Ireland followed with a single. Coach R. Shipman got up from the bench and motioned for a double steal. With his son at the plate, the runners took off on the next pitch, catching the Giants defense off guard. Both runners were safe.

The double steal was to move a runner to second and cut off the chance of a double

play, said the coach. With the players in position, P. Shipman cracked a shot up the center field gap for a double and two RBIs. Matt Shults singled to score Shipman for the 9-6 lead.

The Giants fought back with the bases loaded and one out. But Coach R. Shipman sent in P. Shipman to relieve Donald Collie. After working a full count, Giant Damon Cooke hit into a double play to end the Aug. 8 game.

“This is the second year that they beat us in extra innings. We really wanted this win,” said Giant Richard Zorn.

Spence added “This is what this program is about; it’s a part of our rehabilitation. It’s a blessing these guys come way out here; it shows we can function in society.”

–By Marcus Henderson



# S.Q. Baseball Players Remember ‘Rugger’



Photo courtesy of Steve Reichardt

Rinaldo “Rugger” Ardizioia throwing the first pitch at 2014 Opening Day game between the San Quentin Giants and A’s.

**By Marcus Henderson  
Journalism Guild Writer**

San Quentin’s baseball players will remember former New York Yankee pitcher Rinaldo “Rugger” Ardizioia, who died at age 95 from a stroke on July 19.

“I still have his picture on my wall,” said John “Yayah”

Parratt.

“He will be missed,” said A’s Anthony Redwood.

To the world, he was the Oldest Living Yankee for his short career as a pitcher with the major league team back in the 1940s.

Inside San Quentin, Ardizioia is remembered as the featured guest of the 2014

season ending game between the San Quentin A’s and S.Q. Giants. He signed autographs, threw out the opening pitch, proudly showed off his Yankee ring and talked baseball.

“It was a memorable day to have the oldest living New York Yankee come in here. I think he truly enjoyed it,” said Giant Trevor Bird.

“The appreciation he felt on that day gave him another six months to live,” said Ardizioia’s caregiver, Lynn Adams.

“They may have done bad things, but not all of them are bad,” said Ardizioia after his visit.

“I thought that day was historical. An old school major leaguer came and shared his life with us. He signed my ball; I will cherish that all my life and pass it on,” said A’s James Wortham.

Back in the ‘50s, Ardizioia played baseball on the Lower Yard against the prisoners.

Baseball sponsor Steve Reichardt dedicated a game this year to Ardizioia, calling it Rugger Ardizioia Day.

“He was an under-appreciated piece of history because his major league career was so short. I think S.Q. was the first place to honor him with a day,” said A’s Manager Reichardt.

According to Ardizioia, his career started with the Yankees in 1941-1942.

The Army drafted Ardizioia in 1943, taking him away from his wife, Mary, and a promising pitching career that started with the Hollywood Stars in the Pacific Coast League, ac-



Photo by Steve Reichardt

Rinaldo “Rugger” Ardizioia Looking back at himself as a New York Yankee

cording to Bruce Newman’s article for the *San Mercury News* called, *Oldest New York Yankee Laid to Rest In San Francisco*.

“World War II prevented Rugger from pursuing his dream to the fullest,” the Rev. Al Mengon was quoted as saying at Ardizioia’s funeral, according to Newman.

He spent the 1947 season on the Yankee’s bench until called upon to relief pitch against the St. Louis Browns. He gave up four hits and only pitched two innings in the major leagues.

## Kings Fight Off Outsiders’ Comeback, 71-70

**By Rahsaan Thomas  
Staff Writer**

In the final seconds, the San Quentin Kings stole the ball twice from the visiting Outsiders basketball team, securing a 71-70 victory.

“It’s always fun to be part of a close game,” said Outsider Dave Gordon.

With 27 seconds left in the game, the Outsiders were down 70-68 with Gordon at the line. He nailed two clutch free throws, tying the score.

John Brewster fouled King point-guard Tare “Cancun” Beltranchuc. Beltranchuc made one of two free throws.

Brewster got the ball back with 23 seconds on the clock. The Kings’ defense swarmed the Outsiders and Brewster looked to pass. Outsider 6-foot-11 center Karl Larsen was on the bench at the time. The seconds ticked off the clock, pressuring Brewster. He passed the ball inside and Beltranchuc picked it off.

“I thought I made a good pass,” said Outsider John Brew-

ster.

“Cancun was the hero,” said Outsider Steve Watkins.

Beltranchuc scored 9 points, 1 rebound, 3 assists and 3 steals.

“It’s awesome to contribute to the win,” said Beltranchuc.

Kings Coach Ishmael Freelon called Cancun his “Player of the Game.”

Brewster fouled Beltranchuc with 4 seconds left in regulation.

Beltranchuc missed both free throws and Brewster secured the rebound and called time out.

The Outsiders had 3 seconds

to inbound the ball from half court and make a basket. They put Larsen back into the game and threw him the ball. Larsen caught the ball from the side of the basket at too awkward an angle for a good shot. While falling out of bounds he shoved the ball toward a teammate, but King Demond Lewis intercepted the pass and held it as time ran out.

Larsen ended with 13 points.

Lewis finished with 5 points, 6 rebounds, 1 assist, 3 steals and 1 block.

King Oris “Pep” Williams led all scorers with 26 points and Thad Fleeton dropped 12.

Referee Cory “St. Louis” Woods talked pre-game about being part of the basketball program.

“It’s helping me be humble and patient. This program teaches me how to communicate without being aggressive,” said Woods.

“It blows me away to see how common you guys are. This could be a pickup game in Concord,” said Outsider Al Clark after the Aug. 22 game.

## Warriors Vet Shells Paces Victory Over Green Team, 75-62

The sun beat down on a basketball court surrounded by barbed-wire fences and picnic tables. It was the stage for camaraderie, and the San Quentin Warriors’ 75-62 win over the Christian Sports Ministry’s “Green Team.”

“It’s not only basketball, it’s the ministry that we give,” said Craig Hunter of the visiting Green Team about why he comes into the prison to play. He’s a former San Jose City and Cal. State at Los Angeles college basketball player. Hunter now coaches kids in basketball, he says.

Hunter led Christian Ministry with 15 points, 10 rebounds, 7 assists and 2 steals.

None of the Green Team’s former Claremont-McKenna college players showed up because it was Beau Heidrich’s birthday. This left them undersized against the Warriors, which included Harry “ATL” Smith back in the starting lineup after a three-game suspension.

The Warriors maintained an



Photo by Kristina Khokhobashvili

Brad Shells (left) and Allan McIntosh at work

early lead until Green Team players Dave Liss and Brooks Baldinger came off the bench.

If San Quentin inmates had access to Sports Center, they might have seen a highlight of the 2011 Pan-American Games showing Liss nailing a three-pointer from the corner. The

buzzer-beater broke a tie and gave the U.S. the win over Brazil, according to Liss.

Liss says he played for Cal Berkeley and Pomona while in college.

He dropped three treys before the Warriors’ defense recognized and adjusted. Liss

finished with 11 points but was held scoreless in the last two quarters.

“He is nice. I love his game,” said Warrior Coach Daniel Wright about Liss.

Baldinger added another five points that helped put the Green Team ahead 34-29 at the half.

The Warriors took over again in the second half, partly led by the 48-year-old Brad Shells aggressively crashing the boards. Normally ballers Shells’ age play for the San Quentin Kings over-40 team. However, the veteran demonstrated he could still contend with younger people. He scored 14 points, grabbed 12 rebounds and 2 blocks.

“Coach told me that he was going to put me in a position to play well and that includes conditioning. He’s been on my tail at practice. Conditioning has allowed me to run and defend,” said Shells.

Warrior Allan McIntosh led all scorers with 23 points. Teammate Anthony Ammons added 11 points, 8 boards, 4 assists and 4 blocks. “ATL” Smith

contributed 15 points with 15 rebounds.

“Our size, strength and athleticism finally took over,” said Coach Wright.

“Shells is my player of the game,” said Wright.

Shells said track was his first love, but he played basketball at Cerritos Junior College until getting involved in robberies. He’s in his 25<sup>th</sup> year of incarceration.

For Shells, “basketball is a sanctuary. It’s a place I go to when I need to relieve stress and cope with walking this line.”

He also feels blessed.

“I never thought being in a place like this that I’d be playing against this level of players,” said Shells.

The Aug. 15 game ended, how it always starts with all the players, refs and coaches circled around half-court to share stories and pray together.

“Super wonderful atmosphere. I look forward to coming back,” said Baldinger.

—By Rahsaan Thomas



# Nine Men Complete CTE Course To Prep Them for Jobs After Parole



Photo courtesy of CDCR

Top row: Lashad Joyner, Ruben Harper, Philip Budweiser, Lucious Jackson, Marlon Morris, Jorge Gonzalez  
Bottom row: Michael Vance, Dawud Robinson, Michael Thomas

By Aly Tamboura  
Contributing Writer

The men had assembled a stage in an old industrial prison warehouse and proudly stood on its steps when they received certificates for completing the Career Technical Education (CTE) Construction Laborers Course. The program gives incarcerated men job skills aimed toward landing them employment upon completion of their prison terms.

The nine graduates participated in a six-month program that teaches prisoners OSHA safety and construction procedures, with a focus on concrete technology, according to the instructor, Greg Venegas.

“Sometimes it’s a challenge to get the men to recognize the importance of what they are learning. The program is connecting them to a good future,” said Venegas, who has been instructing the class since February.

In addition to providing job training, the graduates also gain an expense-paid entrance into L.I.U.N.A. Laborers International, a year’s paid dues, along with a set of hand tools — all of which are provided by CTE at no expense to the graduates.

“I’ve been in the construction trades most of my life,” said one of the graduates, Phil Budweiser. He acknowledged the benefits of being in the laborers’ union, which offers work-



Jorge Gonzalez and Greg Venegas

ers health, dental and retirement benefits.

The program is part of the California Prison Industry Authority’s (PIA) commitment to reduce California’s recidivism rate, which is currently 54.3 percent, due partly to innovative employment training programs.

“This program has a 7.1 percent recidivism rate, which is the lowest in the nation,” Rusty Bechtold, an administrator with PIA Workforce Development Branch, told the graduates.

The program’s significant reduction in recidivism is congruous with another impressive fact: The program is active in

14 California prisons, with 70 percent of the participants being women.

Despite construction labor being a male-dominated profession, graduate Lucious Jackson remarked, “I have learned to receive instruction from a supervisor and how to get along with co-workers from all walks of life as we worked together to meet the same goal: to successfully complete the project.”

One of the class projects was building forms and pouring small practice squares of concrete adjacent to the warehouse, which provided the men practice in concrete finishing. The



Photos courtesy of CDCR

Associate Warden Koenig and Lucious Jackson

graduates also refurbished the old San Quentin printing shop, transforming it into a modern computer coding class that is another innovative project taken on by PIA/CTE to prepare prisoners for employment.

The laborers’ program began eight years ago when PIA began building modular buildings and decided to train prisoners to pour concrete slab foundations and install the buildings. This led to a partnership with the labor union, which assisted in training prisoners in construction, according to Bechtold.

The next recently approved project for the program partici-

pants will be removing and replacing a large swath of concrete in front of the computer coding classroom, according to Venegas.

Indeed, there is no shortage of opportunities for the program with San Quentin’s aging infrastructure needing many upgrades and repairs.

Those who are interested in participation can request a job application from PIA and submit it to Mr. Laredo. The criteria for entering the program are possessing a high school diploma or GED and a parole date.



Associate Warden Koenig and Philip Budweiser



Photos courtesy of CDCR

Ruben Harper and Greg Venegas



PIA Administrator  
Rusty Bechtold



# San Quentin News

SOCIETY OF PROFESSIONAL JOURNALISTS

Award Winner

THE PULSE OF SAN QUENTIN

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## Facebook Founder Tours San Quentin

Facebook founder and CEO Mark Zuckerberg traded in his signature black hoodie for a white shirt and slacks when he toured California's oldest prison.

The 31-year old social media CEO, his wife, Dr. Priscilla

Chan, and some Facebook staff members toured San Quentin State Prison, including the entrance to the Death Row area in East Block, on Oct. 13.

See Facebook Czar on Page 20



Photo by Alan Barrett of CALPIA

San Quentin News team interviewing Mark Zuckerberg

## 'Prison System Isn't Changing Anything'

By Rahsaan Thomas  
Staff Writer

A well-rounded life has shaped Inspector General Robert A. Barton's view of rehabilitation. He visited San Quentin State Prison to discuss talking at the TEDx event planned for early 2016.

"We can keep locking people up or we can try to change some-

thing because the prison system isn't changing anything," said Barton. "AB 109 was a Band-Aid. Long-term rehabilitation is the only solution."

The Inspector General oversees the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation and makes recommendations.

See CDCR on Page 4



Photo by Eddie Herena

Delia Cohen and Inspector General Robert A. Barton

To participate in Decembers "Bay Area Hygiene Drive for Homeless Youths," See Page 7



Photo by Eddie Herena

Judge Henderson watches a video with inmates of his ground-breaking achievements

## Cheers of Inmates Greet Judge Henderson's Visit

By Kevin D. Sawyer  
Journalism Guild Chairman

It is not every day that a federal district court judge visits a prison to talk to inmates. That is exactly what happened in September at San Quentin.

A crowd of about 150 inmates and guests greeted Judge Thel-

ton Henderson with cheers and a standing ovation as he entered the Protestant Chapel in a wheelchair (he has a progressive muscle disease.) Henderson shook hands with inmates as he made his way down the aisle to the stage area.

"I appreciate that he is a judge that will take the time to come

to a prison to see for himself both sides to make an informed decision on what he should do, whether it's conditions of confinement or excessive force," said inmate Tim Young.

No corrections officers escorted the judge. One captain

See Judge on Page 10



Photo by Sam Hearn

Efrain Lara, Robert Bagwell, Ellen Dahlke and Rodolfo Medina-Barragan listen to intense conversation about prison problems and programs

## The School-to-Prison Pipeline

### Teachers Explore Remedies at SQ News Forum

Bay Area teachers ventured inside prison to discuss the school-to-prison pipeline and how best to tackle it. San Quentin News hosted the October forum that allowed 14 educators and 21 inmates an opportunity to exchange ideas.

The teachers are troubled by the ever-increasing trend of student suspension, expulsion and arrest fueled by overreaching policies such as "zero toler-

ance." Because of this, they accepted an invitation to discuss these issues with inmates whose delinquency started in the public school system.

"The school-to-prison pipeline has to do with bias," said Deborah Mendoza, a former probation officer who works for the Oakland Unified School District (OUSD). She said kids are

See Teachers on Page 11

The last edition of San Quentin News printed a Choose1, 3-Strike article submitted by F. Jones, next month we will print a revised version, which will also be posted on our website



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Prisoners United in the Craft of Journalism in collaboration with students from the...



San Quentin News strives to report on forward-thinking approaches in criminal justice policies that support positive changes in prisoner behavior, particularly through rehabilitative efforts.



### We Want To Hear From You!

The San Quentin News encourages inmates, free staff, custody staff, volunteers and others outside the institution to submit articles. All submissions become property of the San Quentin News. Please use the following criteria when submitting:

- Limit your articles to no more than 350 words.
- Know that articles will be edited for content and length.
- The newspaper is not a medium to file grievances. (For that, use the prison appeals process.) We encourage submitting articles that are newsworthy and encompass issues that will have an impact on the prison populace.
- Please do not use offensive language in your submissions.
- Poems and art work (cartoons and drawings) are welcomed.
- Letters to the editor should be short and to the point. Send Submissions to:

CSP - San Quentin  
Education Dept. / S.Q. News  
1 Main Street  
San Quentin, CA 94964  
To receive a mailed copy of the San Quentin News, send \$1.61 worth of stamps for postage to:

San Quentin News  
1 Main Street  
San Quentin, CA 94974

The process can be repeated every month if you want to receive the latest newspaper.

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Writing in Your Own Voice, As Taught by Two Experts

By Thomas Gardner  
Journalism Guild Writer

Every Friday evening a small group of inmates assembles in San Quentin's H-Unit education room to practice and discuss writing techniques, guided by bestselling-authors Kent and Keith Zimmerman.

"One time I estimated and added up all the hours spent behind the walls of San Quentin; I figure I've done close to three weeks of time," Kent Zimmerman quips.

H-Unit is much newer than the main prison and is neatly tucked away on the other side of San Quentin's perimeter wall that towers overhead like a medieval fortress.

Compared to the main prison facility, which houses over 3,300 inmates, H-Unit is an attached small population compound, currently housing 380 inmates.

Here, inmates who choose to participate receive tips, pointers, and advice from the twin brother team of accomplished professional writers.

Each class session typically begins in an informal manner, with a lively mix of jests and quips, a few wisecracks, and other sidebar comments, as the men in the class gradually settle into their seats for the weekly forum.

Before long, however, an attentive focus takes over the room, prompted by Kent or Keith, who skillfully introduce a topic or noteworthy event and the class officially begins.

Unlike some classroom environments, the atmosphere is strikingly personal and down to earth, like a group of work colleagues gathered together at the lunch hour enjoying each other's company.

"We urge the guys to write in their own voice," says Kent Zimmerman. "That way it's honest, and never intellectually distant."

The Zimmerman brothers have been conducting their San Quentin creative writing class for more than 12 years.

They also conduct classes at

the Deuel Vocational Institution in Tracy, but San Quentin was their first class. The prisons are "as different as they are the same," Kent says, "both environmentally and in how the classes evolve and are run; we like to cater to what each group expects and wants out of us."

Asked how many published books they've written, Kent says, "Frankly I've lost count, although my brother (Keith) claims it's 20 and I have no reason to doubt him."

The Zimmerman brothers were introduced to San Quentin by a college professor friend from San Francisco State who told them "I taught at San Quentin for 11 years, and it was the best experience ever."

*"The writing here is infinitely more interesting, edgy, and way more honest, not as 'correct'"*

Students in the class love the experience too, as expressed by longtime participant Mike Little: "The class has definitely helped my writing. It has helped me to understand not to be embarrassed by your writing; just put pen to paper."

New to the class and sharing his reaction to it, Nyerere Jase says, "It is a very informative and friendly atmosphere. I write urban fiction; the class may offer me some tips to enhance my writing."

Although the Zimmermans do not have any urban fiction titles in their portfolio of writings, they do share an appreciation for grittiness. Speaking about writing from behind the walls, Kent says "The writing here is infinitely more interesting, edgy, and way more honest, not as 'correct.'"

The Zimmermans, however, are by no means strangers to counterculture and other sub-

jects that may raise eyebrows. Their book "Hell's Angel," co-authored with biker Sonny Barger, made *The New York Times* bestseller list. Their four follow-up books on the subject also made the list.

Other successful titles written by the Zimmermans include: "Huey: Spirit of the Panther," written with David Hilliard," a Chicago mob/outfit book, "Operation Family Secrets," and books with Alice Cooper and Earth Wind & Fire.

Kent talks about his and his brother's strong bent toward music and entertainment. "Our first book was with Johnny Rotten (of Sex Pistols fame), which made the *London Times* bestseller list. We did a signing in Piccadilly Square and for one week out-sold *Harry Potter*."

Inmate Mike Little confesses his interest in music as well. "I love music." The Zimmerman brothers talk about "pop culture" and things going on. "The class kinda' gives an outside perspective on things."

Little is quick to add, "Also, there are no race lines in the class; you get to sit down with people that you normally wouldn't, and hear people's stories, and get different takes on things."

Kent says that one of his and his brother's favorite projects came in response to a "Funny where life takes you" idea, which led to their book titled "H-Unit," about their experiences at San Quentin. "It celebrates the class and a general spirit of volunteerism, about how we ended up here, and why, and how."

Reflecting on their more than 12-year experience at San Quentin, Kent declares that "the administration has been ultra supportive of all of our efforts."

Additionally, he is eager to say that San Quentin provides him and his brother the human interaction needed after long and solitary periods of writing.

Kent says that he and his brother are currently working on projects with Kool and The Gang, and the Hooters restaurant franchise. "When pursuing work, as part of our pitch we tell prospective clients that we teach this class – it's very important that they know the work that we do in the prison." Furthermore, he adds, "I'm sure that our association with the prison has helped us get gigs."

To students in the class, Kent's major bit of advice about writing is: "Show, don't tell! That's the golden rule." His saying is similar to the popular prison yard adage "Don't talk about it; be about it."

"It is my longstanding belief that there is power in the written word that transcends verbal communication. I appreciate the creative feedback from well-established published authors," says regular class participant Elron Mings.



Keith and Kent Zimmerman



# Death Penalty Ban Moves Toward 2016 Ballot

**By Juan Moreno Haines**  
Managing Editor

Former M.A.S.H. star and anti-death penalty advocate Mike Farrell filed papers that would end the death penalty in California in the state’s attorney general’s office on Sept. 15.

The ballot initiative, “The Justice That Works Act of 2016” (*The Act*) would retro-

actively convert all California death sentences to life without possibility of parole, reported the Capital Alert.

“Violent killers convicted of first degree murder must be separated from society and severely punished,” and “murderers who are sentenced to serve life in prison without the possibility of parole in California are never eligible for parole. They spend the

rest of their lives in prison and they die in prison,” *The Act* reads.

Since 1978, California sentenced nearly 1,000 murderers to death at a cost of more than \$4 billion. However, there have been only 13 executions since 1978, and none in almost 11 years, according to *The Act*.

Under this ballot initiative, convicted murderers would be legally required to work and

pay 60 percent of their wages as damages to compensate victims.

California’s death penalty system is more costly than life imprisonment without the possibility of parole by more than \$100 million per year, according to *The Act*.

In addition, *The Act* cites the more than 150 innocent people who have been sentenced to death in the U.S.

“The death penalty is a failed government program that wastes taxpayer dollars and makes fatal mistakes.”

The measure needs to collect 365,880 signatures by March 14 to qualify for the November 2016 ballot.

In 2012, 48 percent of Californians voted to end the death penalty while 52 percent favored keeping the law in place.

## Aiming to Eliminate 12 Million Yearly Jail Admissions MacArthur Foundation to Invest \$75 Million in Multi-Year Programs

**By Tommy Bryant**  
Journalism Guild Writer

America’s jail system is seriously flawed and a non-profit foundation is investing

\$75 million to help finance changes.

Three-fifths of the nation’s jail inmates are pre-trial defendants who are presumed innocent, commented Nicho-

las Turner, president of the Vera Institute. Releases with no money paid based on promise to return to court are less common than they were two decades ago.

The John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation project is aimed toward eliminating 12 million jail admissions in the U.S. every year, according to a May 28 article by Ted Gest in *The Crime Report*.

round of funding, between \$500,000 and \$2 million each year, to put their ideas into action,” reported Gest, president of Criminal Justice Journalists and Washington bureau chief of *The Crime Report*.

Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation. “When the justice system fails, virtually nothing else can succeed.”

Jails “are being used to detain the wrong individuals,” said Michael Botticelli, director of the national drug control policies for the Obama administration. He called for a “public health” system, rather than a “punitive” approach.

## Single Death Drug OK’d On 5-4 Supreme Court Vote

**By Charles David Henry**  
Journalism Guild Writer

A deeply emotional and divided U.S. Supreme Court finally upheld the use of a controversial single lethal injection execution process, “even as two dissenting justices said for the first time they think it’s ‘highly likely’ the death penalty itself is unconstitutional,” according to Mark Sherman of *The Associated Press*.

To resolve the dispute over the lethal injection drug, midazolam, used in Arizona, Ohio and Oklahoma executions last year, the court in a 5-4 decision ruled its use as a single injection for executions did not violate the Eighth Amendment prohibition on cruel and unusual punishment, said Sherman.

ment” reached earlier in June, Gov. Jerry Brown’s administration agreed to propose a new lethal injection method 120 days after the Supreme Court made its final decision, said Maura Dolan of the *Los Angeles Times*.

Kent Scheidegger, legal director of the Criminal Justice Legal Foundation, said this ruling would make it more difficult for challengers to block California’s new protocol, which is due in late October. According to Dolan, state law requires extensive public comments, and this could take a year.

Dolan also reported that Scheidegger and his supporters prefer pentobarbital, used by veterinarians to kill animals. But U.C. Berkeley law professor Elisabeth Semel, who is in charge of a law school death penalty clinic that represents inmates on Death Row, said the state will be unveiling a new execution method at a time when there is profound ambivalence about executions in California. “I don’t think anyone has the appetite” to execute approximately 750 people on Death Row, she said.

“The 10 locations with the most promising plans will qualify next year for a second

The U.S. justice system “needs some serious attention,” said Julia Stasch, president of the John D. and

gun ownership. California already bars those who commit violent misdemeanor crimes from owning a firearm for ten years.

In responding to the high rate of incarceration and overcrowding problems, the state Senate Committee on Public Safety requires that legislation be scrutinized for its impact on the prison system, says St. John.

“Since February, the prison population has been within required limits, and legislative staff members now say that the state must only show it can keep crowding down.” St. John notes.

## ‘High Emotion’ Violence Prompts Flood Of Get-Tough Bills in State Legislature

‘Since February, the prison population has been within required limits’

**By Thomas Gardner**  
Journalism Guild Writer

Recent violent events have prompted state legislators to propose bills that would create new felony criminal offenses, potentially putting more people in prison, the *Los Angeles Times* reports.

This comes just seven months after California reduced its prison population to a level deemed acceptable by the federal courts, according to the report.

“It is usually the ‘high-profile, high emotion’ cases that override concerns about prison crowding”

“It is usually the ‘high-profile, high emotion’ cases that override concerns about prison crowding,” said Lizzie Buchen, state coordinator for Californians United for a Responsible Budget, according to Paige St. John, reporting from Sacramento for the

Times.

High-profile cases this year include serial murders in Orange County and a shooting rampage at the University of California at Santa Barbara in which six people were killed.

“Legislators are willing to overlook the potential impact on the prison population when it is something as emotional as that,” says Buchen, the *Times* reports.

Four new felony offenses are being proposed:

SB 333 by Sen. Cathleen Galgiani, D-Stockton, would make possession of any “date rape” drug a felony punishable by up to three years in the county jail.

SB 722 by Sen. Patricia Bates, R-Laguna Niguel, would require fugitive sex offenders to spend up to three years in prison, thereby addressing the problem of GPS monitor disabling and circumvention.

AB 256 by Assemblyman Reggie Jones-Sawyer, D-Los Angeles, would make it a felony to alter or delete video evidence, with a punishment of up to five years in prison.

SB 347 by Sen. Hannah Beth Jackson, D-Santa Barbara, would add theft of a gun or bringing ammunition onto school grounds to the list of misdemeanors that can block

gun ownership. California already bars those who commit violent misdemeanor crimes from owning a firearm for ten years.

In responding to the high rate of incarceration and overcrowding problems, the state Senate Committee on Public Safety requires that legislation be scrutinized for its impact on the prison system, says St. John.

“Since February, the prison population has been within required limits, and legislative staff members now say that the state must only show it can keep crowding down.” St. John notes.

“Issues of overcrowding are now evolving into broader concerns about the length of sentences and purpose of incarceration,” said the spokesperson for committee Chairwoman Loni Hancock, D-Oakland.

Passage of new felonies does not mean prison overcrowding is no longer important, just that new crimes are more so, said Tim Yarnan, lobbyist for the Association of Deputy District Attorneys.

If approved by legislators, the bills would still need the signature of Gov. Jerry Brown, who has recently vetoed bills that would have created three new misdemeanors.



# Oakland Mayor Picks Former SQ News Staffer

## Garry ‘Malachi’ Scott Appointed to Violence Prevention Committee

**By Rahsaan Thomas**  
**Staff Writer**

Oakland Mayor Libby Schaaf is putting to good use the insight of paroled former *San Quentin News* Sports Editor Garry “Malachi” Scott.

“I think he will bring an authentic and wise viewpoint of how we can prevent our young

people from committing crime in the first place and how we can also welcome back people out of prison in a way that supports them not recidivating,” Schaaf told *Oakland Tribune* columnist Tammerlin Drummond.

“So many people are trusting me to make decisions that impact so many lives. I have to be

able to honor that. I really, really care about the community,” said Scott at a Kid CAT banquet inside San Quentin.

He was invited to meet with Schaaf while she was running for mayor, along with other formerly incarcerated people, to discuss reentry issues, according to Drummond’s article.

Scott saw Schaaf again when

she attended his birthday party, which was a tree-planting community event in North Oakland to celebrate Scott’s first birthday in society after serving 15 years for second-degree murder.

Later Scott’s name came to mind when Schaaf was thinking of whom to appoint to a Measure Z Public Safety and Services Violence Prevention oversight committee.

Scott now works fulltime as a peer counselor for West Side Community Service, which is a mental wellness organization that serves youth. He also goes to the Alameda County Juvenile Hall in San Leandro to help facilitate Restorative Justice circles to assist juveniles coping with life after release, according to Drummond’s article.

Scott is a cofounder of the North Oakland Restorative Justice Council. The volunteer organization hosts block parties in North Oakland at sites where people have been killed in homicides and holds peace walks. The idea is to give people in neighborhoods traumatized by violence a way to come together so they can begin to heal, Drummond wrote.

Scott has been to Washington, D.C., to talk about criminal justice reform with Roy Hamilton and Congress members Tony Cardenas (D-Rep. Virginia) and Bobby Scott (D-Rep. California).

Additionally, he is part of the Free Hunger Program with Auntie Francine; RJ Oakland Youth with Fania Davis; and Pueblo People United for a Better Life in Oakland.

“Doing Restorative Justice is a part of my healing process,” said Scott. “Killing a man left a hole in my heart. What I get out of helping others is healing.”

# CDCR Inspector General Barton Offers Frank Views Before Joining Planned TEDx Event

*Continued from Page 1*

“I work for what’s best for the State of California,” said Barton. “The governor can’t fire me once I’m confirmed, so I can criticize the department.”

Barton has worked as a deputy inside a jail as well as a prosecutor. He has even traveled to Rwanda after the genocide. His journeys and background have given him perspective.

“The victim’s family and offender’s family are crying on both sides,” said Barton. “Our system isn’t set up for justice. How do you expect people to respect the system if there isn’t any justice in it?”

Barton sat in a circle with Delia Cohen, the TEDx event sponsor, inside members of the TEDx committee and a few other incarcerated Americans.

He discussed his background, which is on YouTube, and several big ideas he could share, such as hope in redemption.

A murder left Barton’s mother single with four kids by time he was 5. They were the minorities in a neighborhood filled with Puerto Ricans.

“I thought it was normal to fight everyday going to and from school,” said Barton.

His mother remarried when Barton was 10, and they moved to Fresno. He didn’t get along with his stepfather, and Barton became emancipated at 16.

In high school Barton got into several sports, including wrestling. His coach instilled in him the idea of self-discipline.

Determined to work his way through college, Barton worked nights in a jail. He started working for the sheriff’s department permanently after graduation.

“I didn’t want to be a police officer to arrest people; I wanted to be a police officer to help people,” said Barton.

A better way to help dawned on him while watching court proceedings.

“Prosecutors have all the power. If you want to change the system, you have to have prosecutors that have that mindset,” said Barton.

He earned a law degree at UC Davis and became a prosecutor, who would recommend diversion instead of prison time for youth.

“I haven’t gone to the other side. It’s all the same side,” said Barton. “If I come to the belief the person is innocent ... then my job is to dismiss the case.”

Outside the prosecutor’s office, Barton was part of groups like the Police Activity League, The Victim/Witness Auxiliary board and Community Action Against Drugs and Alcohol (CAADAA).

“It was my effort to prevent people from coming into the system,” said Barton.

He then became Supervising Assistant Inspector General for the Central Region of California. Now, he is the Inspector General.

California Penal Code 6126 lists his duties.

He cannot order the CDCR to do anything; however, his office does have some influence. Every new warden has to get a recommendation from Barton.

“We ask every new warden, ‘What are you going to do to support programs?’” said Barton.

He also has the power of the pen. His reports end up in the media.

As a last resort, Barton can go to the legislature and re-

quest authority.

Plus, the Inspector General can enter any California prison at anytime, talk to anybody and look at any logs. He has the power to arrest anyone who tries to stop him and charge them with a misdemeanor. Getting a visit from the IG office usually solves the problem.

“We don’t get involved on an individual complaining that he doesn’t like his sandwich,” said Barton. “It has to be an actual injustice that needs to be corrected.”

Barton believes in the power of rehabilitation. His TEDx talk may center on the three-step process he says is needed.

Step one is getting people in a place where they are open to getting their triggers switched.

“It’s pretty hard to get someone to be self-aware in overcrowded conditions,” said Barton.

Second, is to give incarcerated Americans the opportunity to help them change, ie provide the space.

Third is providing the support.

“If you don’t give people hope, then there is no reason to change,” said Barton.

Barton talked about how Rwandans are moving forward after the genocide.

“They saw atrocious acts that make your crimes look like nothing,” said Barton. “Their society abhors violence because it was so bad. They are pacifist.”

Cohen added, “I never felt any sense that there was ever a genocide over there.”

Barton talked of seeing incarcerated Rwandans do a dance where the officers joined in.

“That’s an amazing mindset... They see them as future neighbors,” he said.



Brian Asey, Delia Cohen, Shadeed “Sha” Wallace-Stepter, Inspector General Robert A. Barton and Nou Thao



Heidi, Garry “Malachi” Scott and Javier sharing a meal

## LETTER TO THE EDITOR

### I’ll Rather Have Family Visits Instead

By P. Brooke,  
SQ Prisoner

CDCR started a program called Family Visiting in either the late 60s or early 70s. During Family Visiting inmates could spend three days and two nights in a home-style setting. Under this program families could find a closeness that one could not get in normal visiting. But, in the 90s Family Visiting ended for any inmate with a life term; the very families who benefited the most from the program were left out of it. Inmates who had determinate sentences, say five, 10, 20 years continued to be permitted to use the Family Visiting program. Nevertheless, CDCR claims it is a supporter of building strong family ties; so they say.

However as of late, condom containers packed with condoms for the unsupervised taking have been placed in various places in San Quentin. All the while, CDCR states that they

do not condone sex between inmates; moreover, it is illegal. Would CDCR give a loaded weapon to a Death Row inmate and tell him not to harm anyone with it? Of course not. By installing condom containers packed with condoms all around this prison implies that it is ok for inmates to have sex with each other. On the flip side, CDCR claims they are trying to stop the spread of sexually transmitted diseases. It is hypocritical to say it is illegal for inmates to have sex with each other and then provide something that is used for what you say you cannot do. Instead of appearing to allow homosexual activities, start up family visiting for lifers again. It is the family structure that needs to be strengthened, not homosexuality. Yes, I am a Christian, a child of God and am 100 percent against this abomination that CDCR is doing. Turn to God and stop this thing.



# ‘It’s Time to Close These Immigration Prisons’

*‘A boy no older than 5 came up and hugged my leg ... and asked, “Are you here to get us out of jail?”’*

By Wesley R. Eisinger  
Staff Writer

A congressman who toured an immigration prison says he found appallingly bad conditions and calls for major changes in how America treats undocumented aliens.

“It is time to close these prisons and bring humanity into the lives of the women and children who came to seek more of it than they’d been offered at home,” Rep. Raul M. Grijalva wrote in an article for *The Guardian*.

“I went to see for myself the conditions that the women and children incarcerated there face first hand - and what I saw was nothing short of heartbreaking,” said Grijalva, D-Arizona. He toured the South Texas Family Residential Center in Dilley, Texas, with a congressional delegation.

“Should women and children who risk their lives fleeing to escape poverty and violence be put in for-profit prison?” Grijalva asked. “We proclaim to the world that

those facing credible harm in their homelands can find refuge in America.”

Grijalva wrote, “Bungalows house multiple families per room and with a communal shower and no privacy.” They have a lack of medical care. “Some kids as old as 7 or 8 actually regressed back to wearing diapers as a result of their captivity.”

“Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) pays \$325.69 per day per detainee to the Corrections Corporation of America,” the con-

gressman reported.

“But over the past 11 years, 32 people have died in the ‘care’ of Corrections Corporation of America’s facilities. Seven were suicides, and the rest resulted from a lack of medical attention,” he added.

“They are here to find refuge from horrifying conditions. They seek out Border Patrol agents - walk right up to them - and ask for our help,” he wrote.

Until a legally required hearing, asylum seekers are allowed to live in the United

States on their own. “We’re not supposed to be holding them in prison facilities at all,” he said.

“To fix this, we must remove profit motives from incarceration in our society. To Corrections Corporation of America, these aren’t asylum seekers, they’re literally the company’s bottom line,” the report said.

Grijalva said as he was getting ready to leave, “a boy no older than 5 came up and hugged my leg ... and asked, ‘Are you here to get us out of jail?’”

## Securus Buys JPay; Prison Industrial Complex Consolidates

By Kevin D. Sawyer  
Journalism Guild Chairman

Securus Technologies, a leader in the prison payphone industry, recently signed a deal to purchase JPay, Inc., the *IT Business Net* reported.

JPay leads the market in technology that provides electronic funds transfers, payments, email, entertainment and educational apps to prisoners in more than 30 state prison systems.

“It’s a really smart move for Securus to buy them out,” Miguel Saucedo told an online reporter for *Truthout*. Saucedo’s brother is incarcerated in the Illinois Department of Corrections. “They will completely monopolize the busi-

ness; a real model for the prison industrial complex.”

According to *Truthout*, the prison payphone industry generates an estimated \$1.2 billion a year in revenue.

“This transaction thrusts Securus into the fastest growing segments in corrections: payments, email and most recently, inmate tablets,” Rick Smith, CEO of Securus Technologies, told *IT Business Net*. “We announced the transaction on April 14, 2015, and since that time we secured the debt and equity funding and necessary approvals from the state and federal regulatory bodies and closed our transaction.”

Smith said with the signing of this deal his company can

offer almost anything that is high-tech and software-based for correctional facilities to “operate a modern prison or jail.”

“We are always eager to expand our footprint,” said Ryan Shapiro, JPay’s CEO. “Our products deliver tremendous value to every constitu-

ent; the prison staff, family and friends and of course, the inmate. Our focus is to develop groundbreaking products, then gain adoption on a massive scale. With Securus behind us, we can now make that happen in a fraction of the time.”

According to *IT Business*

*Net*, JPay was founded in 2002 as a payments company and later evolved to include a digital platform.

Securus provides its services to more than 2,600 law enforcement and correctional facilities and to more than 1 million inmates across North America.

## FCC Urged to Lower In-State Phone Rates

Prison Policy Initiative (PPI) continues to urge the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) to make changes to regulations on in-state calls carried by service providers in the prison pay-phone industry.

In a recent letter to FCC Secretary Marlene H. Dortch, PPI expressed gratitude for work done by the FCC to lower phone rates on interstate calls made from correctional facilities. The letter included articles from editorials detailing rate reduction around the country.

“I believe these stories will be particularly informative as you consider further regulation,” wrote Bernadette Rabuy, PPI’s policy and communications associate. “I urge the FCC to expand your protection to more families by regulating in-state phone rates and ancillary

fees.”

Some fees are paid by telephone service providers to correctional facilities in exchange for the contract to do business with the facility, *The Boston Globe* reported.

According to *The Globe*, “These commission costs are then transferred to the customers in the form of phone charges that can run more than \$1 per minute.”

“The (Colorado) prison system in 2014 took in \$1.53 million more than it cost to run the system, resulting in a 58 percent profit margin,” *The Denver Post* editorial board reported earlier this year.

According to *The Post*, the law and other policies prohibit phone companies from “charging far in excess of what a service costs.”

In 2013, the FCC made reforms in the industry, one of which was to place a cap of 25 cents per minute on interstate collect calls made from correctional facilities.

Correctional telephone service providers often charge exorbitant fees to increase profits, circumventing regulatory reforms, critics say. “Securus is already making massive profits off of prisoners and their families,” the *Huffington Post* reported.

Securus is moving beyond the telephone market, to purchase the company JPay, which provides video visiting, electronic funds transfers, email and prison-approved tablets for inmates to play games and listen to music, according to the *Huffington Post*.

—Kevin D. Sawyer

## Prison Phone Services Handle \$1.2 Billion a Year

When someone is locked up, it has a major impact on the prisoner and his or her family and friends. It’s made worse by the high cost of phone calls they must pay to stay in touch, *The New York Times* reported.

It was reported that inmate calling services, which are dominated by a small number of phone companies, rake in \$1.2 billion annually. These private companies provide phone service to inmates in U.S. jails and prisons in every state.

“Rates and fees (are) far in excess of those established by regular commercial providers,” *The Times* reported. “Now, after years of complaints from prisoners’ rights groups and families of the incarcerated, the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) is investigating the financial intricacies of the industry, which has been largely unregulated.”

*The Times* reported the FCC found that nearly half a billion dollars in concession fees, also known as “kickbacks,” were paid to correctional institutions in 2013.

“The agency (FCC) is expected to rule this year on whether to ban the concession fees and limit the cost of prison phone calls,” *The Times* reported in March 2015.

According to *The Times*, Global Tel-Link Corporation

and Securus Technologies are the two dominant phone companies in the inmate-calling service industry. Global Tel-Link controls half of the market for jails and prisons.

“Richard A. Smith, Securus’ chief executive, said in a letter to regulators that his company had paid \$1.3 billion in concession fees to prisons and local governments over the past decade,” *The Times* reported.

Last year Global Tel-Link’s phone traffic reached 3 billion minutes with 215 million calls made from jails and prisons, it was reported.

Securus, second in the industry to Global Tel-Link, charges a variety of fees for basic phone calls and services, including a fee to close an account, *The Times* reported.

“The fees make up an estimated 40 percent of the average prison phone bill,” according to the Prison Policy Initiative, a nonprofit organization, *The Times* reported.

The FCC last year placed a cap on the interstate calls. In response to the cap, according to *The Times*, phone companies increased the charges on intrastate calls made from jails and prisons. These calls, it was reported, make up the majority - 90 percent - of calls made from jails and prisons.

—Kevin D. Sawyer

## Despite FCC Order to Cap Prices, Securus Profits Jump From \$87 Million to \$114.6 Million

Prison pay-phone giant Securus Technologies profits continue to rise in the face of an earlier order by the Federal Communications Commission (FCC), which capped the price of interstate telephone calls made from correctional facilities, *Truth-out.org* reports.

### LIMIT

An impending ruling by the FCC that may limit how much the prison pay-phone industry is allowed to charge customers (incarcerated people, their family and friends) has not slowed Securus’ growth, according *Truth-out*.

“In leaked documents from a presentation to investors acquired by *The Huffington Post*, Securus portrays itself as a company clearly in the black,” *Truth-out* reported in July. “In 2014, they made

\$114.6 million, up from \$87 million the previous year.”

### REVENUES

According to *Truth-out*, the prison pay-phone industry generates an estimated \$1.2 billion a year in revenue. More than \$100 million of it is paid back to states in commissions, also known as “kickbacks,” for the right to contracts to provide phone service to inmates.

Prison Policy Initiative (PPI) reported that Securus no longer pays commissions on interstate calls. It said the FCC issued an order that now prohibits prison pay-phone service providers from passing off to consumers the cost of commissions paid to correctional facilities as if they were a valid expense in doing business.

“Securus exemplifies the in-

dustry’s obscene penchant for squeezing profits by fleecing their customers...” said Peter Wagner, executive director of Prison Policy Initiative. As explained in another recent article, “Securus’ business model is less about providing phone service than it is about harvesting fees.”

### COST

According to PPI, the difference between Securus’ cost to provide service and what it charges customers was 51 percent.

“That’s not only unprecedented, it’s significantly higher than companies typically known for having high profit margins like Apple,” Wagner said.

Securus provides phone services to 2,600 prisons and jails in 47 states, PPI reported.

—Kevin D. Sawyer



# Time to Reshape Your Narrative

By Juan Moreno Haines  
Managing Editor

“If we’re not shaping our own narrative, then we’re giving into what’s out there about who you are,” inmate Emile DeWeaver told a classroom of convicts, many of whom are murderers. DeWeaver said that he believes inmates have the power to change how they are seen by the public by telling their story,

their way. “I complained a lot about the law and how it disenfranchised people,” DeWeaver said. “But what are we doing to inject ourselves into the conversation? Crafting an honest narrative may help someone do that.” DeWeaver told the class that he was confident that they could tell their story and connect with readers by finding common ground and focusing on human

elements all people share. “Imagine if everyone were telling their story in an authentic way,” DeWeaver said. “That would be a powerful force against the dehumanizing narratives that fuel mass incarceration. That’s the most important thing for these guys.” He added, “Lasting rehabilitation begins with understanding that no matter how reprehensible your past actions were, you are human,

and you’ve always been human. That makes you valuable.” The first writing prompt for the class was, “Why are you here?” “I started out just like any other family,” inmate Michael Macky said of his own story. “I started out good and free. What went wrong is my parenting suffered. I needed extended family support. Everyone needs someone to lean on,” he said. Macky is serving a 75-year-to-life sentence for murder/robbery.

“The most important thing I learned from the class is unity,” Macky said. “I learned that I’m not in this alone, which is the first time I’ve experienced this on this scale. This class makes me feel like I can be myself—who I truly am at 34 years old. I haven’t had that feeling for 13 years—the amount of time I’ve been in prison.” DeWeaver has had the opportunity to share his own story both with public officials, including State Senator Loni Hancock and Congresswoman Jackie Speier, and through the online magazine *Drunk Monkeys*.

DeWeaver said publishing parts of his life story online has allowed him to better connect with his daughter and has also broadened the perspective of others who have read his story, like the thinking of a mother whose niece was murdered. “I’m amazed that people are amazed by our stories,” DeWeaver said. In explaining some of the obstacles to creating a new narrative, DeWeaver said students should understand society’s anger and fear regarding the crime of murder, especially while remembering their victims never had a second chance.

“We have debt that we cannot pay. But, I personally will not stop trying to pay it,” DeWeaver said. “There are not a lot of ways for me to make amends, so it is my personal mission to do as much good as I could do. This is a part of me trying to introduce good into the world and to influence as many men to do the same.” “I think it’s very structured and insightful. DeWeaver broke down a lot of the structure in how to tell our stories, and where to begin,” inmate David Le said. “Before this class, I thought I was communicating my ideas as clearly as I could. After the class, he gave me tools like universal needs and shared values, the main things he expressed in storytelling. That’s something I knew but didn’t take a look at until this class.” According to Le, the likelihood that he will appear before the parole board has increased when Governor Jerry Brown signed into law SB 261 in October. SB 261 allows those who were between age 18 to 22 at the time of committing a crime to appear before the parole board. A previous law, SB 260, only applied to those under the age of 18. Le has been in prison for a murder committed at age 21. He is now 31.

Le, who arrived at San Quentin in 2013, is working as a teacher’s aide and is enrolled in the prison’s college program. He said he also participates in several self-help groups. DeWeaver encouraged the students to understand basic human needs like self-esteem, belonging and safety as tools of communication and human connection. “We have to figure out who we are and where we want to be,” DeWeaver said. “Writing is a great tool to do this. I want to give people the opportunity to say in their own words, to say why they did what they did, and be able to communicate that to the public. In the long run we’ll be able to come up with human solutions to our country’s mass incarceration problem.”

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## Diamonds in the Rough

By Aminah Dorsey  
Contributing Writer

You see them, the hot pink uniforms, escorted to and from chow and meds. You know, those few outside in the 95 degree heat because they have to get their fresh air when they can. It’s no secret; we all carry some form of mental, emotional, or psychological baggage. However, what differentiates every individual is how they manage to cope with it, the grief, fear love, longing, shame, and guilt. Tangible weights no woman should be made to carry alone.

For far too many years, program failures were simply “punished” by being smothered with rule violation write-ups which ultimately resulted in them having their privileges taken away, a situation that is called “C/C Status” and designated to wear hot pink uniforms. It is a distorted belief system that discourages them, resulting in an increase in broken windows, fighting, and substance abuse. Their self-defeating behaviors had them rooted on the proverbial merry-go-round of self-sabotage.

As sure as the world changes around us, so must we change the way in which we approach rehabilitation. In July, the C/C pilot program, a program for prisoners who have had their privileges

taken away due to penalties, was activated at Central California Women’s Facility. The voluntary, eight-week program is held on the general population facility yards Monday and Tuesday evenings from 5:45-7:45 p.m. The program focus is on substance abuse, anger management, criminal thinking, family relationships and conflict resolution. On the first day of class, most of the ladies, dressed in hot pink, admitted to attending for the sole purpose of getting off C/C Status early. There was so much resistance and hostility. However, by the second week there was a remarkable shift; the group had transformed drastically as every participant was eager, willing, and open to maximizing the program to their greatest potential.

As so happens, the recipe of trauma for most incarcerated women is universal: substance abuse, anger, self-esteem, acceptance, love, and belonging. As a facilitator and executive body member with the upcoming Live, Learn, and Prosper Program, I must admit it has been an honor to be given the opportunity to sit down next to these women and to get to know them on an intimate level. There is great potential in this C/C rehabilitation program. I have no doubt that upon graduating from this program

the women will be confident and comfortable in their abilities to rise above any future adversities they may face. One participant remarked, “Before, I would fight and not consider the consequences. Today, I am a different woman and I owe my growth to this program.” Make no assumption; aftercare is essential and many need it after the program. A participant stated, “I am tired of the life I’ve been living. I want another program after we graduate from this one.” Senior prison administrator P. Cerrillo, Correctional Counselor III, has assured all participants that after successful completion their needs will be assessed and they will be given priority placement into the programs that best suit their individual needs.

It’s one thing to face the ugly truth about yourself when no one is watching, but it’s something else altogether when you’re able to use these shameful experiences to encourage and motivate others in your community. Thanks in large part to our prison administration, no stone will be left unturned in our quest to help the women of Central California Women’s Facility shine bright as the diamonds they are. Congratulations graduates. Ladies, you’re worth it!

# The Bitter Truth Behind High Cost of Incarceration

By Juan Moreno Haines  
Managing Editor

Four decades of high incarceration rates in the U.S. are “destroying families and communities, especially those that are already vulnerable to health disparities, violence and lack of opportunities,” according to a September 2015 report led by the Ella Baker Center for Human Rights. The effects of mass incarceration, the report contin-

ues, endure “for generations and are felt most deeply by women, low-income families and communities of color.” Nearly one in every 100 American adults is currently behind bars, a rate 5 to 10 times higher than in Western Europe and other democracies, according to a 2014 National Academy of Sciences, *The Growth of Incarceration in the United States*. The annual cost of incarceration in the U.S. is about \$80 billion, topping spending on housing, transportation and higher education, according to the Ella Baker Center report, entitled *Who Pays?: The True Cost of Incarceration on Families*.

About 2.7 million minors in the U.S. have at least one parent in prison, according to the Pew Center on the States’ report *Collateral Costs: Incarceration’s Effect on Economic Mobility*. The rate of children who have a parent in prison differs dramatically by race. More than 11 percent of Black children and 3.5 percent of Hispanic children have at least one incarcerated

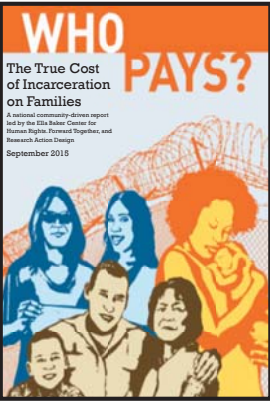
parent, compared to 1.8 percent of White children. Nearly a third of the incarcerated individuals surveyed said their imprisonment hurt their parent-child relationship or that imprisonment caused separation or divorce in their families. Research shows that longer sentences increased the likelihood of dissolution of relationships. However, the same research also shows that when families kept in contact through regular visits and phone calls, their relationships became stronger, and they stayed together. *The True Cost of Incarceration on Families* reports that nearly two-thirds of respondents with an incarcerated family member were unable to meet their family’s basic needs. Respondents cited significant costs related to phone calls and visits about one-third of the time. *The Prison Policy Initiative* estimates that added telephone fees constituted more than one-third of the annual \$1 billion that families pay to call family members in prison.

Healthy family relationships and economic stability have been shown to reduce recidivism, according to *The True Cost of Incarceration on Families*.

“More than half of people in U.S. jails and prisons have mental health issues”

More than half of people in U.S. jails and prisons have mental health issues, and “these issues are often exacerbated during imprisonment because prisons and jails are unequipped to provide adequate or appropriate health services and treatment,” the report reads. “Participants shared that health impacts in their families were intergenerational and sometimes had the most severe consequences for children of incarcerated par-

ents.” More than three-fourths of survey respondents said finding work after prison was “very difficult or nearly impossible.” A 20-year longitudinal study, for example, found that prison time reduced an employee’s wages by up to 20 percent. More than one in five survey respondents reported that their conviction had resulted directly in a denial of some type of public assistance, such as general assistance, housing or nutrition assistance through federal programs like Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) and Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP). Nearly one-third of those denied had families with children and said that they most often were denied food stamps. According to the *National Institute of Justice Collateral Consequences Inventory*, there are more than 44,000 federal, state and local restrictions placed on people with a criminal conviction, including licensing bans, street vending and cab driving.





# National Runaway Prevention Month

By John Lam  
Journalism Guild Writer

November is designated as National Runaway Prevention Month to highlight the struggles of homeless youth. Each year, between 1.6- and 2.8-million youth run away from home because of child abuse, neglect, and parental substance abuse. “They struggle to survive from day to day, doing what they can to secure food and temporary shelter. Most of these youth are on the streets because their home environments were too much to endure,” according to a statement by Larkin Street Youth, a nonprofit based in San Francisco that serves homeless and runaway youths. The runaway month is spearheaded by the National Runaway Safeline (NRS) and National Network for Youth (NN4Y).

Their goals is twofold: 1. To raise awareness of the runaway and homeless youth crisis and the issues that these young people face. 2. To educate the public about solutions and the role they can play in ending youth homelessness. As an ongoing year-to-year campaign in November, people are encouraged to participate in a Social Media Day of Action and the Green Light Project, in recognition of National Runaway Prevention Month. The Green Light project also distributes green light bulbs as a symbol of youth homelessness and supporters are encouraged to turn on their green porch light to raise awareness and show support for runaway youths. In 2014, special month’s theme was “Piecing it all Together,” designed to represent

“The overlap between various at-risk and underserved youth populations. While many people tend to think of various youth populations as separate, the fact is that issue areas such as bullying, abuse, youth violence, human trafficking, LGBTQ, foster care, substance abuse, and the juvenile justice system are often interconnected,” stated National Runaway Safeline. NRS pieces together the different services available and gathers data to identify trends in runaway youths and youth homelessness. It also provides a crisis intervention hotline that directs runaway and homeless youths to shelters and counseling services across America. To learn more, call 1-800-RUNAWAY, access 1800RUNAWAY.org, or text 66008.

# Kid CAT Begins Its 3rd Annual Bay Area Hygiene Drive for Homeless Children

By Miguel Quezada  
Staff Writer

Kid CAT hosts the third annual “Bay Area Hygiene Drive for Homeless Youth’s.” Donate and make a difference! This year hygiene products and money raised will be donated to At the Crossroads, Larkin Street, Homeless Youth Alliance and Compass Family Services located in the Bay Area. Kid CAT thanks the San Quentin community for their generous contributions. Together we have collected 675 hygiene kits. The following groups have previously contributed. • The Richmond Project • CGA Criminal and Gang Members Anonymous at San Quentin • SQUIRES San Quentin Utilization of Inmate Resources Experiences and Studies • GRIP Guiding Rage into Power • AFC Alliance for Change • VGSQ Veterans Group of San Quentin • Restorative Justice



Photo by Sam Hearn

Hygiene products collected in 2013

• The Last Mile • American Indian Group of San Quentin Here is how you can participate: North Seg and East Block: In December, Trust Account Withdrawal Order forms will be passed out in the housing units. The Trust Account Withdrawal Order forms will be picked up on Dec. 7. There is a \$5 minimum donation limit. H-Unit North and West Block: On Dec. 13 between the hours of 12:30 and 2:30 p.m., drop off

your hygiene products to the lower yard ARC trailer. If you are donating on behalf of a self-help group, please state the name of the group when you make the delivery. Please do not donate state-issued or open products, only sealed items purchased from the canteen or quarterly packages. Individual items are accepted or donate hygiene kits that include: One soap, one toothpaste, one toothbrush, one shampoo, one deodorant, one lotion, one soap dish one toothbrush cap.

# New York Governor Uses Executive Order To Send Juveniles to Special Facilities

Despite Raise the Age legislation failing to reach his desk, New York Gov. Andrew Cuomo made an executive order to move 16- and 17-year-olds held in adult prisons to special facilities designed for youths. “To the dismay of the Raise the Age NY Campaign and its supporters, lawmakers did not reach an agreement on changing the age of criminal responsibility in New York,” the *Legislative Gazette* reported. During his State of the State Address, Governor Cuomo had prioritized raising the ages of criminal responsibility from 16 and 17 to age 18. “We did not reach an agreement on something called Raise the Age, which is a proposal that I had made in the State of the State. The executive will on its own raise the age of people in state prison,” Cuomo said.

“Right now 16- and 17-year olds are going to state prisons, and that, I believe, is an intolerable situation. So by executive action we will take 16- and 17-year olds out of state prisons and put them in separate facilities, which will be designed and managed by the Department of Corrections and OCFS.” “While Cuomo’s executive order will prevent youth from being housed in adult prisons, it fails to meet what the legislation called for – a change to the age of criminal responsibility,” the *Gazette* reported. “Gov. Cuomo’s failure to fulfill his public commitment to pass comprehensive raise the age legislation jeopardizes public safety and lets down children like Kalief Browder who spend years in the adult system for simple mistakes,” reads a statement by the Raise the Age Co-

alition. “For three years, Kalief Browder, who was 16 when arrested, was held at Rikers Island in New York City, waiting for a trial that never happened. After two years in solitary confinement, his charges were dropped and he returned home. He never recovered from the psychological effects of his detention and committed suicide,” the *Gazette* reported. “I am dismayed that New York state did not raise the age of criminal responsibility and left over 33,000 youth annually subject to arrest and prosecution as adults,” said Angelo Pinto, of the Correctional Association of New York. “Kalief Browder’s recent suicide illustrates how the adult criminal justice system destroys young people’s minds and bodies.”

–John Lam

# Kid CAT Speaks

## Illinois Limits Placing Juveniles in Adult Trials

Illinois Gov. Bruce Rauner has signed legislation limiting the transfer of certain juveniles into adult court.

### TRANSFERS

The measure ends automatic adult court transfers for 15-year-olds. It also limits the transfer to adult court of 16- and 17-year-olds charged with first degree murder, aggravated criminal sexual assault or aggravated battery with a firearm. “The legislation ensures juveniles have their cases heard before a Juvenile Court judge who can consider mitigating factors such as background, mental capacity and culpability before deciding whether the case should be transferred to adult court,” *The Associated Press* reported. “As a Juvenile Court judge, there are many more services we can provide in juvenile court,” said Associate Judge Ray Ca-

vanaugh of 9<sup>th</sup> Judicial Circuit Court. “When people are younger, it’s easier to modify their behavior. You might be able to change their home environment, might be able to change school environment. There’s a much higher likelihood of doing that in Juvenile Court than in the adult system.” **LEGISLATION** Rauner also signed legislation that will stop sending offenders to Juvenile Justice Department facilities for misdemeanor offenses. The law will cut in half the number of juvenile offenders in the county who are sent automatically to adult court for lesser crimes, according to Cook County Board President Toni Preckwinkle, who lobbied for the legislation. –John Lam

## Philadelphia Lawyers Work to Help Youth Offenders in Adult Courts

Two Philadelphia attorneys are taking innovative approaches to assist youth offenders who are referred to adult court. Lauren Fine and Joanna Visser Adjoian, co-founders of the Youth Sentencing and Reentry Project, are dedicated to improving the outlook for youths in the adult criminal justice system by advocating for alternatives to prison, the *Inquirer* reported. The two attorneys discovered the needs of families and children who didn’t know how to express their circumstances – and attorneys who didn’t know how to represent their clients -- while working together at the Juvenile Law Center. They worked to develop a multi-pronged approach that includes casework, policy advocacy, training, and referral services. Both attorneys quit their jobs and launched their non-profit, the *Inquirer* reported. “There’s such a tendency in the criminal justice system to have this dichotomous victim-offender relationship,” Visser Adjoian said. “But it’s not that clear-cut. These families can carry both labels: ‘victim’ and ‘offender.’” One client, a 17-year-old pregnant foster youth, had been a

victim of sexual and domestic abuse she was arrested on a gun charge. “YSRP compiled a 65-page report documenting her history and offering options that would keep her with her child. It included two letters of acceptance into inpatient mother-child drug treatment programs YSRP had located. Her case remains in adult court, but there’s hope the judge will draw on the work in sentencing,” the *Inquirer* stated. “It’s humanizing,” said Fine. “That’s the essence of what we’re trying to do.” Judge Benjamin Lerner, who presides over decertification hearings in Philadelphia, said psychiatric evaluations tend to be his most important tool. But the YSRP reports have been helpful, he said. Philadelphia has the most juvenile lifers than any other state – about 20 percent of the nation’s total. In 2012, 375 juveniles, ages 11 to 17, were sentenced as adults, the *Inquirer* reported. The District Attorney’s Office said 305 juvenile cases were charged in adult court in 2014; 111 continued there and 141 were moved to Juvenile Court. –John Lam

**Kid CAT (Creating Awareness Together) is a group of men that committed their crimes as teens and were sentenced as adults to life terms. The group’s mission is to inspire humanity through education, mentorship and restorative practices. Kid CAT Speaks wants to hear from the male and female juvenile lifers, educators, and policy makers concerning juvenile justice issues and rehabilitation.**



# New Look at Stanford Experiment on Prison Cruelty

*‘Don’t blame the evil lurking in individuals; blame the institutional setting itself’*

**By Chung Kao**  
**Staff Writer**

A new film, “The Stanford Prison Experiment,” is inspired by one of the darkest chapters in modern experimental psychology, according to a columnist for *New Yorker*.

Conducted in 1971, the elaborate experiment at role-playing supposedly showed that middle-class college students, divided into roles of prisoners and guards with little or no instructions, began almost immediately to behave in extremely abusive or submissive ways. It is cited as evidence of the savage impulses that lurk within us all.

But the columnist offers a contrary view.

Maria Konnikova wrote that the real lesson of the Stanford Prison Experiment is that extreme behavior flows from ex-

treme institutions, not from human nature. “The lesson of Stanford (Prison Experiment) isn’t that any random human being is capable of descending into sadism and tyranny. It’s that certain institutions and environments demand those behaviors—and perhaps, can change them,” Konnikova wrote.

Konnikova writes a weekly column on [www.newyorker.com](http://www.newyorker.com) focusing on psychology and science.

She said the confusion about what really happened in 1971 was the result of premature exposure. Konnikova said that the appeal of the experiment came from its seemingly simple setup, and the compelling initial results were quickly overpublicized. The publication of a “methodologically and analytically rigorous” report came

later. By then it was too late.

The premature disclosure convinced people that the Stanford experiment underscored the findings of the earlier Milgram obedience study and showed “the ease with which regular people, if given too much power, could transform into ruthless oppressors.”

The Milgram study demonstrated that ordinary people, if encouraged by an authority figure, are willing to torture their peers with what they believed to be painful and potentially lethal levels of electricity.

However, Konnikova pointed out, the fake “Stanford County Prison” was a “heavily manipulated environment,” and the Stanford participants acted in ways that were largely predetermined by the experiment’s express goal, to evoke the experience of working and living in

a brutal jail.

Professor Philip Zimbardo, the experiment’s lead investigator, set the guards’ priorities, including the booking procedures that were meant to “humiliate” and “emasculate” the prisoners. Zimbardo and another researcher also played the roles of the prison superintendent and warden.

In addition, the students self-selected to participate in “a psychological study of prison life,” she said. A 2007 study showed that people who chose to participate in prison studies were significantly more aggressive, authoritarian, Machiavellian and narcissistic.

In contrast, in a 2001 study that sought to replicate the Stanford experiment without the pre-set expectations, the prisoners rebelled and took control of the guards’ quarters on the sixth day. It became known as the BBC Prison Study.

“Taken together, these two studies don’t suggest that we all have an innate capacity for tyranny or victim-hood. Instead, they suggest that our behavior largely conforms to our preconceived expectations,” Konnikova said.

## Dealing With the Rising Call for More Expensive Kosher and Halal Meals

**By Isaiah Thompson-Bonilla**  
**Journalism Guild Writer**

Nutritional care in the departments of corrections nationwide varies from state to state. However, one issue all states consistently struggle with is the cost of halal and kosher meals.

Before halal, which are Muslim meals, and kosher, which are Jewish meals, became standard in the corrections industry, many grievances were filed, often leading to litigation over not recognizing religious dietary standards.

More inmates in the U.S. are asking for halal and kosher meals. Because of this, the issues of cost and augmenting the kosher meals in a non-kosher kitchen have inspired discussion, writes Barbara Wakeen in the “Dietitian’s Corner” of

the Association of Correctional Food Service Professionals’ *Insider* magazine.

In California, kosher meals are pre-packaged and halal meats are purchased from certified vendors then dispensed to all the facilities statewide. These prices vary from \$2.60 to more than \$8 per meal.

In Los Angeles County, microwave meals are served in facilities. The prices range from \$2.82 to \$3.20 each, for lunch and dinner for the kosher meal.

Throughout the country where there are kosher residents in non-kosher facilities, frozen foods from companies such as Sysco are ordered. Often pre-packaged meals are acceptable; however the question of whether an institution is doing all that it can to observe strict religious diets is often the topic of discussion.

Kosher meals and halal meat are more expensive than regular state-issued foods. The reason is that approval of these meals requires a rabbi or Islamic authority to authorize kitchen and supervision practices, as well as slaughtering techniques according to religious jurisprudence.

Many facilities around the country have adopted the kosher and halal meal paradigm, but it did not come without serious struggle by inmates seeking to have observance of their religious practices acknowledged and allowed by their corrections departments.

Wakeen also wrote, “The Arizona Department of Corrections settled a lawsuit after eight years of litigation where the inmate agreed to accept a kosher diet as an acceptable alternative to halal meats.”

## PRISONS SUED FOR VALLEY FEVER

### Four Inmates File Federal Civil Rights Action

**By James King**  
**Journalism Guild Writer**

Four inmates have filed federal civil rights lawsuits alleging that California prison officials knowingly exposed them to the fungal infection known as “valley fever.”

Valley fever is an infection that develops when people breathe in *Coccidioides* fungal spores. Such spores are found in higher levels in the Central Valley. In 2011, 42.6 cases per 100,000 people have been reported in states where the disease has become epidemic. According to health officials, California has about 31 percent of the cases.

According to the *Fresno Bee*, one lawsuit states in part, “The American system of criminal justice requires that state correctional authorities carry out the exact sentence determined by the judicial process – no more and no less. Instead, Defendants

knowingly imposed on plaintiffs a lifelong, crippling, and sometimes fatal disease in addition to their lawfully determined sentences.”

***“42.6 cases per 100,000 people have been reported in states where the disease has become epidemic”***

The lawsuits name the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation, various state officials and various wardens as defendants.

The lawsuits state that studies show that Blacks, Hispanics, Native Americans and Asians, particularly Filipinos, are especially susceptible to contracting valley fever.

The *Fresno Bee* reports that attorneys for the inmates say health officials have known about the risks of valley fever in the Central Valley for more than 50 years.

Though declining to comment on the specific litigation, prisons spokesman Luis Patino stated, “CDCR has been working to mitigate valley fever for years. We have put in place numerous measures in our prisons to reduce the amount of dust, and the movement of dust, particularly into buildings. We have also moved inmates deemed at higher risk and who choose to move out of the two prisons in the valley fever endemic zone.”

Since 2005, 70 inmates died as a result of valley fever, said Jason Feldman, one of the attorneys filing lawsuits.

In a response to court-ordered action, over 2,100 inmates have been transferred from Central Valley state prisons.

### SB 261:

## Raising the Age of Youth Offender Parole From 18 Through 22. What You Need to Know

Gov. Brown signed SB 261 into law on Oct. 3, 2015. What is this about?

In 2014, a new law was enacted: “SB 260,” also called “Youth Offender Parole.” That law was for people who were under the age of 18 at the time of their crimes. SB 260/Youth Offender Parole created a special youth offender parole process. The guide has all the details of how it works.

SB 261 expands SB 260. It makes the law also apply to people who were 18, 19, 20, 21, or 22 at the time of their crimes.

**Who is eligible?**

Except for the age, the same criteria are used in SB 261 and SB 260. People age 14 through 22 at the time of the crime will be eligible for Youth Offender Parole. There are more details about eligibility in the Guide, but here are the basic rules:

**You are eligible for SB 261 if:**

1. You were under the age of 23 at the time you committed the crime,
2. You were sentenced to life (“L”) or given a determinate sentence (“no L”)
3. You are not disqualified for one of the reasons below. You are NOT eligible for SB 261 if:
  1. You were sentenced under the “three-strikes” law based on two or more prior serious or violent felonies, or you were sentenced to a “one strike” life sentence for certain sex offenses. PC 1170.12; 667(b)-(i); 667.61.
  2. You were sentenced to Life Without the Possibility of Parole (LWOP).
  3. You were convicted of a new crime that happened at age 23 or over and you were given a life sentence for that conviction. PC 3051(h).
  4. You were convicted of a new crime that happened at age 23 or older, and that had “malice aforethought” as a necessary element. These crimes include: first degree murder (PC 187), second degree murder (PC 187), attempted murder (PC 664/187), conspiracy to commit murder (PC 182/187), solicitation to commit murder (PC 653f(b)); assault by a person serving a life sentence that is with a deadly weapon or that is likely to produce great bodily injury (PC 4500).

**When does the new law go into effect?**

SB 261 and its companion bill, SB 519, will go into effect on Jan. 1, 2016. But that does not mean you will get a hearing in Jan. – there are over 10,000 people eligible for SB 261 and we do not know how the Board of Parole Hearings (“the Board”) will schedule and prioritize hearings. The law includes a deadline for when the Board must complete hearings for everyone who has served enough time to get a youth offender parole hearing. The deadline for people with a life sentence (“lifers”) is January 1, 2018. The deadline for people with a determinate sentence (“no L”) is Dec. 31, 2021.

The law also requires that the Board do a Consultation with each person six years before the hearing. The Consultation is when a member of the Board sits down with you and goes over what you need to do to get ready for your parole hearing. The deadline for completing all the Consultations is Jan. 1, 2018.



# Katya McCulloch’s Dedication to San Quentin Artwork

By Tommy Winfrey  
Arts Editor

For the last 11 years, Katya McCulloch has been teaching block printing at San Quentin State Prison. Over the years, she has figured out what works in a prison setting and what doesn’t when it comes to making prints.

On most Friday mornings, McCulloch can be found in the San Quentin art studio teaching linoleum block cutting techniques, commonly referred to as lino-cuts. “We’ve tried different types of printing, but because of equipment and security concerns, lino-cuts are the most practical,” she says.

Before coming to teach at San Quentin, McCulloch worked in alternative education. She and a fellow artist helped start the Teamworks Art Mentoring Program in Marin County, which provides art classes for at-risk youth, who do not typically have access to art education.

“Growing up I went to a high school that didn’t have any art programs. When I found print making at the college level, I found my language,” says McCulloch.

Her path to higher education was not a straight one. McCulloch attended five different colleges before graduating from the University of California at Berkeley with a degree in German literature and art practice. “It took me 11 years to complete my degree, and I give thanks to the community college system for allowing a mother with kids to re-enter the higher education system.”

After graduating, McCulloch lived for four years in Berlin, Germany, where she attended the Berlin Free University, which specializes in liberal arts. “The legacy of the German Expressionist made a huge impact on me,” says McCulloch, adding that she was especially affected by the artwork of the

painter Paul Klee.

She says having an internationally diverse background and living in an affluent county like Marin made her want to give back. “I have a lot of understanding in how narrow the definition of fitting is and how hard it is to find an outlet for your creative side.”

McCulloch says she considers herself lucky that she found art. “If creativity doesn’t find an outlet, it can become self-destructive.”

As for working inside San Quentin, McCulloch says she enjoys it very much. “It’s never boring. I like working with other artists on collaborative projects because I enjoy watching how ideas grow with all the other participants’ input,” she says. San Quentin artists have their own vision and possess high skill sets, she added. “It’s interesting and challenging working with these adult artists.”

In addition to making prints, McCulloch is a sculptor and painter — although she admits she hasn’t painted in some time. Her artwork was recently exhibited at the Santa Cruz Museum of Art and History, where work by artists from San Quentin was also displayed. “I felt proud to have my work shown there; it felt like an accomplishment,” she says.

McCulloch’s work can be seen locally in an exhibit at the Westamerica Bank, Red Hill Branch, in San Anselmo. Her work with the San Quentin artists can be seen in the traveling exhibit “Absence and Presence,” which features artwork inspired by bombings in Baghdad, Iraq.

The show has already been exhibited in San Francisco, Boston and London and will eventually show at the National Library in Baghdad before it is permanently displayed at the Library of Congress in Washington, D.C. To find out more about this show, readers can search “al-Mutanabbi Street starts here.”

McCulloch came to San Quentin when the art program was looking to diversify its classes. Since arriving, her

work has been quite successful, gaining her respect from the men she has taught. “Ultimately, I think being exposed to art

makes us more rounded human beings. Art is a universal human need and not just an elitist profession,” she commented.

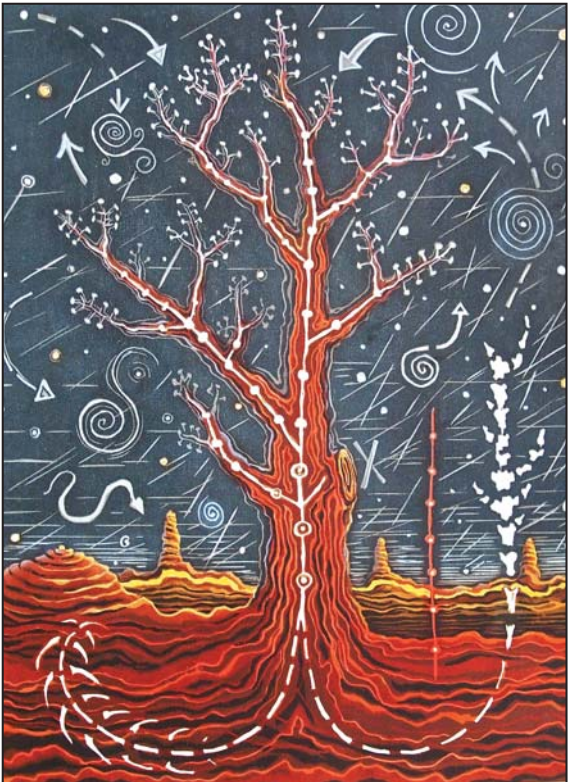


Edge of Wilderness

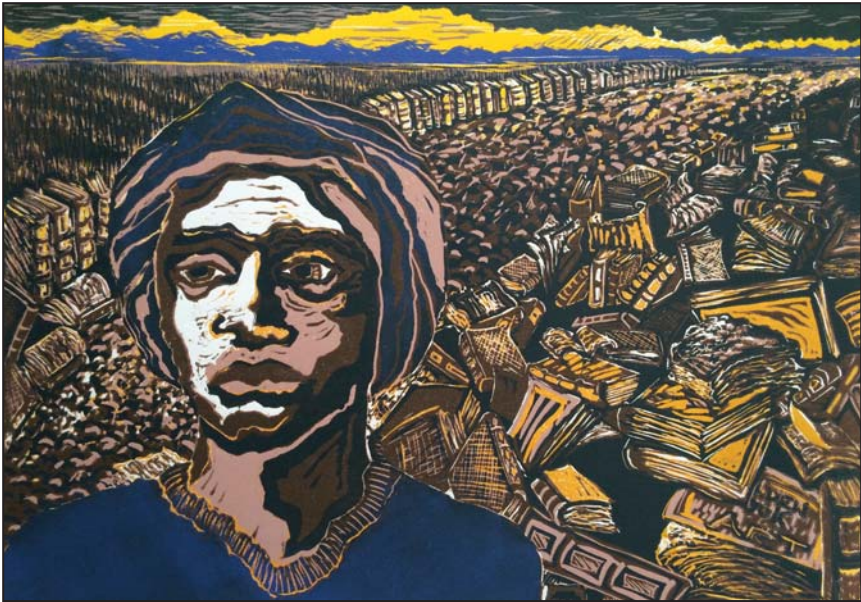


Photo by Lt. S. Robinson

Christopher Christensen, Andrew Vance, Rolf Kissman, Adam Barbosa and Katya McCulloch



Tanami Sky



Golden Book of Art



# Judge Henderson’s Cheering Welcome to SQ

Continued from Page 1

stood in the back of the chapel watching, seemingly more out of curiosity than anything else.

As one of the three judges that preside over California prison health care, Henderson is known for his rulings which resulted in an order for California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation (CDCR) to reduce its prison population.

“I’m not going to be on the bench forever,” Henderson told the audience.

Initially, inmates and guests assembled in the Protestant Chapel to watch *The Thelton Henderson Story*, a film documentary that chronicles the judge’s life, produced by Abby Ginzberg in 2005.

“Thank you for your support of Judge Henderson,” said Ginzberg as her film crew recorded the event. She plans to change the ending of the film to reflect work that Henderson has done since its completion 10 years ago.

Henderson was forthright with inmates as he spoke about tackling prison issues during his tenure on the bench.

In 1993, Henderson presided over a trial in which inmates identified as gang members at Pelican Bay State Prison were housed in the security housing unit (SHU) for indeterminate periods of time.

“When I got the Pelican Bay case I had five issues; one was solitary confinement,” said Henderson. “I think the policy will change.”

“Henderson’s decision (on solitary confinement) outlined a blueprint for reform,” the film narration said.

According to the *Associated Press*, the CDCR settled the Ashker v. Brown lawsuit in September, agreeing to stop housing validated gang members in SHUs for indeterminate lengths of time.

Henderson said the gang validation policy is coming under “strict scrutiny” as prisons consider it.

“Solitary was a tough case,” said Ginzberg. “We’re moving as a society and keeping pressure on the decision makers; shout out to Michelle Alexander for her work” writing *The New Jim Crow*.

Henderson said when he attended law school in 1962 students were taught three purposes of prison; they were punishment, deterrence and rehabilitation. He said rehabilitation has gone away.

In the film Henderson said, “Those who have transgressed the law are still human beings.”

Henderson said there were 30,000 inmates in California prisons when he became a judge, reaching a peak of 180,000 decades later due to the tough-on-crime movement that got out of hand.

“I’m determined to see an improvement in the prison system,” Henderson said in the film.

Referring to Realignment (AB 109), Henderson said the result is a decline in the state prison population. “The offshoot of that is the counties are

overcrowding,” he said.

According to Henderson, Republicans and Democrats have agreed that long prison terms do not help. He said they realize it costs too much to house inmates.

“I’ve been pushing Governor Brown to push new legislation to help reduce the population,” said Henderson. “It serves no one to send people to prison for long periods of time.”

The inmate turnout did not reflect the number of those who signed up to attend the event. More than 250 inmates were approved to attend Henderson’s visit and the film screening.

“People sign up, but people don’t come,” said Lt. Samuel Robinson, SQ Public Information Officer. “For those who didn’t, I’m sure it’s their loss. “I think it (attendance) was still paltry.”

“I’m very glad to have seen your path of life,” said inmate James Metters. “Your walk has inspired me as it has all of us. You’re an example to follow.”

Inmates serving lifer terms beyond the schedule in their sentencing matrix raised their concerns about the legality of the matter.

“There’s nothing the legal system can do about it,” said Henderson. “It’s a political matter.”

Henderson referred to the late-1980s case of Willie Horton. He said no politician wants to shoulder the responsibility of releasing a lifer on parole, who commits a heinous crime.

Inmate Forrest Jones asked Henderson about his opinion on California’s Three-Strikes law.

Henderson said to warehouse someone for the period of time under three-strikes does no good for the prisoner or for society.

“It’s not rational. It’s too punitive,” said Henderson. “We are one of the few countries that doesn’t treat its prisoners as if they are citizens. I believe further changes need to be made.”

The film chronicled Henderson’s life from his childhood days living in the Los Angeles area of Watts to his days at the University of California, Berkeley, and on to its School of Law at Boalt Hall.

In 1962, the U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ) recruit-

ed Henderson to work as a civil rights attorney. He worked in the deep South documenting violations of civil rights laws.

Older Black inmates viewed the film in silence as they watched footage of police dogs attacking Blacks protesting for their civil rights in the South.

“In the face of brutality Thelton Henderson still believes very much in the law,” the film’s narration says. “He was a little bit of all worlds that were colliding.”

In 1968, Henderson questioned Stanford University’s administration as to why in its history it had not graduated any Blacks from its law school. The university responded by hiring Henderson to recruit Blacks to attend Stanford Law School. Within six years 20 percent of Stanford’s students were minorities.

“Thelton still has the problem of being a Black man in power in America,” the film narration says.

In the 1990s Californians voted on Proposition 209 which banned affirmative action in California. Henderson blocked the proposition which led to accusations that he silenced voters. A three-judge panel of the Court of Appeals, Ninth Circuit reversed Henderson’s decision, and the U.S. Supreme Court later refused to hear the case, leaving the proposition intact.

According to the film, Henderson became a target of impeachment from the bench because of his rulings.

Henderson said he is going to retire and has already hired his last clerks. He said a replacement judge will get randomly assigned by a computer, and 14 of the 20 active district court judges in his court are bright judges appointed by President Barack Obama.

“I didn’t know what to expect,” said attendee Kyla Rowe, a law clerk for Henderson who graduated from Hastings College of the Law in May. “It was eye-opening.”

“One of the most touching moments was when you all applauded the judge,” said Michelle Lamy, another one of Henderson’s law clerks and a June graduate of Stanford Law School. “It was overwhelming.”

—James R. Abernathy Jr. and Nyerere Jase contributed to this story



Judge Thelton Henderson talks to prisoners outside in the Central Plaza



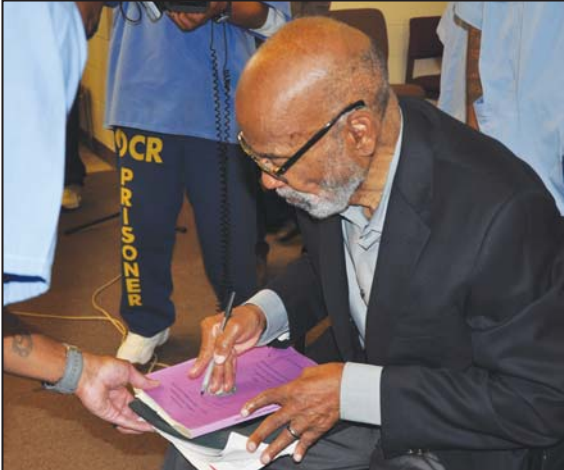
Dr. Maria Luisa Alaniz with her husband Judge Thelton Henderson



Pastor Mardi Jackson shares a laugh with Judge Henderson as Curtis Roberts helps him outside



Curtis Roberts, Judge Henderson and John Windham enjoying each others company



Judge Henderson signs a Title 15 for a prisoner



# Teachers Tackle the School-to-Prison Pipeline

*Continued from Page 1*

labeled based on their affiliations. “We have this idea that public safety is investing in law enforcement.”

Kelli Riggs works for the San Francisco Unified School District (SFUSD), where she teaches fifth grade at Bret Harte Elementary School in the city’s Bay View district. She said schools that adopt zero tolerance policies condition some teachers to have biases against some students.

“I can’t remember a time when I went to school when a teacher was for me,” said inmate Shaded Wallace-Stepter. He said now that he is older he recognizes the value of education and how much teachers are on the front line.

Omar Hunter is a teacher, originally from Detroit, Michigan. He has worked for OUSD and now works in the Hayward Unified School District. He said school administrators need to understand the ethnic and racial makeup and the environment schools are in.

“I believe the school-to-prison pipeline begins with class and race oppression,” said Hunter. He said issues are escalated because of demographic differences, and schools need to keep the law out of it.

For some teachers, walking onto the grounds of San Quentin seemed all too familiar.

“Walking up to the physical building looks like a lot of schools,” said Keith Brown, who teaches sixth and eighth grade in the OUSD. “Walking on the (prison) yard was like walking through a high school at lunchtime.”

***“I’ve never sent a kid to detention because I see behavior as more of a symptom”***

According to Brown, zero tolerance policies for kids who break rules such as dress code and talking back to teachers are a basis for students to get labeled. The majority of these students are Black and Brown.

Inmate Borey Ai said his family arrived in the U.S. from Cambodia. “I found myself going to school and not connecting to other kids because of the language barrier,” he said. “The way I coped with things was to join a gang.”

Brown said this year he is teaching students who are new to the U.S., and he can now relate to Borey’s story. “I’m definitely going to share your story with my colleagues,” he said.

Inmate Rodolfo Medina-Barragan, 18, listened to the older inmates’ stories about their school disciplinary problems and delinquency that eventually led them to prison serving life sentences in California’s dangerous Level Four, maximum-security prisons.

Medina-Barragan said the California Department of Cor-



Photo by Sam Hearn

Prisoners and teachers discussing solutions to stop the School-to-Prison pipeline



Photo by Sam Hearn

Top Row: Leron Barton, Trevor McNeil, Keith Brown, Darell Ross, Bottom Row: Karin Drucker, Deborah Mendoza, Kelli Riggs, Michell McKnight, Omar Hunter, Susanna Kershtholdt-Molloy and Samuel Franklin



Photo by Sam Hearn

Darell Ross explains to Gary Roberson Jr. how his school operates

rections and Rehabilitation (CDCR) Youth Offender Program (YOP) helped him out by not sending him to a Level Three or Level Four prison.

“I’m grateful that I’m here (San Quentin) so I don’t have to go through that,” said Medina-Barragan.

“I’ve never sent a kid to detention because I see behavior as more of a symptom,” said Trevor McNeil, who teaches seventh grade English. He said it makes sense that kids are defiant when they are hungry or abused.

Darell Ross, an assistant principal in Oakland, said when he started teaching he was given guidelines, rules and directives on how to deal with students.

“Looking back, I would start out with the end in mind,” Ross said.

Ross said different choices can be made by talking to inmates. He said educators need to learn from people who have been through certain experiences, and education administrators need to incorporate that in college training programs.

Toward the end of the forum, *San Quentin News’* Editor-in-Chief, Arnulfo T. Garcia asked the inmates to share the moment in which they knew it was time to change their lives for the better.

“I had an epiphany moment when I saw a Death Row inmate escorted in shackles,” said inmate Philip Melendez. “That could have been me.”

For other inmates, change came with time.

“Hearing my mother cry when I got sentenced crushed me, but it didn’t change me,” said David Monroe. “Maturity made me see life differently.” He said San Quentin Utilizing Inmate Resources Experiences and Studies (SQUIRES) allowed him to see kids who reflect exactly who he was at their age.

Teachers were asked what their biggest takeaways would be from participating in the forum and hearing directly from those who fell into the school-to-prison pipeline trap.

Susanna Kershtholdt-Molloy said she did not like how kids are systematically targeted.

“My take-away is to reach out to families,” said Kershtholdt-Molloy. “I don’t blame the kids for what they bring to the table.”

Ross said, on behalf of educators who are doing their best, he wanted to apologize for anything they’ve done that led inmates to where they are today. He apologized for their failures.

“This instilled more awareness in what it takes to raise a child,” said Ross. “Instead, we look for ways to isolate and separate. We have all that we need to solve problems, but we have to come together.”

This initial forum will lead to future San Quentin forums with educators in the community who are interested in reaching out to at-risk students.

—Kevin Sawyer,  
James R. Abernathy Jr.





Photo by P. Jo

Johnston Canyon

Sudoku Corner

			8	1		6		
	7	5		3				
8					7			
		6				7	9	4
9	3		2		6		5	1
5	4	1				2		
			9					7
				2		3	6	
		2		7	8			

	3					7		
8				7			2	
	2	7						8
	6	5		4	7			
		1	8		2	4		
			3	6		1	5	
7						2	4	
	1			3				7
		4					6	

Last Issue’s Sudoku Solution

2	8	3	9	5	4	1	6	7
4	6	1	3	7	2	8	5	9
9	7	5	8	1	6	4	3	2
7	1	4	5	2	3	6	9	8
3	2	6	1	8	9	7	4	5
5	9	8	6	4	7	3	2	1
6	5	7	2	3	8	9	1	4
1	4	9	7	6	5	2	8	3
8	3	2	4	9	1	5	7	6

8	9	6	1	5	2	4	3	7
7	4	5	9	3	8	1	6	2
2	3	1	4	7	6	8	9	5
6	2	3	8	1	7	9	5	4
9	1	4	6	2	5	3	7	8
5	7	8	3	9	4	2	1	6
3	8	2	5	6	9	7	4	1
4	6	9	7	8	1	5	2	3
1	5	7	2	4	3	6	8	9

Complete This Puzzle and Win a Prize!

Question: The more you take from me, the bigger I will become. What am I?

The Answer to Last Months Trivia: The Farmer carries the chicken across the river and comes back. He grabs the grain and carries that across then takes the chicken back. He drops the chicken off and grabs the fox and carries the fox across the river. He then goes back and gets the chicken and carries the chicken across the river.  
The winner to last Month’s puzzle is Robert Bacon.

Congratulations to all the other participants who also got last month’s puzzle correct. Andy Halperin, Craig Gerstner, Edward Wycoff, Norman Hirscher, E. Vick and Leroy Lucus.  
Congratulations to Gavin Backues for his creative response: Let the chicken eat the feed, and let the fox eat the chicken and then carry the fox across the river.  
Rules

The prize will be for completion of brain twister puzzles. All puzzle submissions should be sent via u-save-em envelope to San Quentin News/Education Department. Only one entry per person.  
All correct submissions will be placed in a hat. The winner will be picked by a drawing of the first answer from that hat.  
The prize is 2 Granola Bars. Prize will only be offered to inmates with privilege group status that allows for the prize items. Inmates transferred, sent to ad/seg, or otherwise not available to claim their prize will result in forfeiture.  
The answer and winner’s name will be published in the next issue of the San Quentin News.

Snippets

Sadly, West Virginia is considered to hold the distinction of being the deadliest state in America. In 2009 there were 11.7 deaths per 1,000 people.  
Congested enough, Los Angeles is the most populated city in the state with 9,880,000 residents, according to the 2009 United States Census.

Horses can only breathe through their noses.  
In 1801, an ex-slave named Toussaint L’Ouverture led close to 500,000 Haitian slaves against Haiti’s French colonialists. Their victory was the first successful slave revolt which helped establish Haiti as the first Black republic.

Spelling can be troublesome at times, similar to the way “British” is misspelled in the last paragraph in the Declaration of Independence.  
Massachusetts and Maine, which was part of Massachusetts until 1820, celebrated the third Monday in April as a legal holiday called Patriot’s Day.



# After the Conversation, What's Next?

By Watani Stiner  
Contributing Writer

Though it seems a lot longer, it's only been nine months since I was released from San Quentin State Prison. Just a few months since I gathered my belongings, said my good-byes and walked eagerly but patiently to be processed from one world into another. I took my final breath of imprisoned air and allowed my ears to surrender the sounds of jangling keys and clanging doors. Twenty-six years of captivity and another 20 spent as an escaped fugitive in exile. I pondered my new reality on the other side of these concrete walls.

I am moving cautiously through a process of re-learning. Unquestionably, after 46 years, this country has changed a lot: people, places and a wide variety of "things." I'm dazzled by magical cell phone apps and thrilled by the readily available flow of information that can be retrieved from my laptop.

While on the one hand, with the assistance of GPS navigation, it's relatively impossible to get lost out here anymore, it's also creepy how easily the government can not only track and find you but can know everything about you. And people don't even seem to mind. Yet, in spite of all these technological advancements and wonderments, there remains a social reality that seems to have become more pernicious and prevalent—a cruel reality of police brutality, poverty, mass incarceration and gross inequality, yoked with a powerful apathy working as a buffer from the human suffering caused by these conditions.

I was immediately shocked by the saturation of homelessness on the streets of this coun-

try. Both young and old roam the streets looking for safety, shelter and a willing handout. I witness constant streams of women, young and old, pushing stuffed carts while hungry and dispirited-looking children try to keep up. I see their hungry faces revealing their thoughts: this is my reality...this is how life is... this is normal.

Now I'm quite aware that this is not the total reality of life on this side of the wall. But it is the one I choose to talk about, one I cannot ignore. The last time I walked the streets of this country as a free man was January 1969. Similar to today, it was a time of great social unrest in this country. In 1969, the year I was sentenced, the prison population in the state of California was less than 25,000. The prison population today has skyrocketed to well over 100,000. And the number of young prisoners is astonishing!

Even though there are now Black faces in high places, including in the White House, and there are more women in the workforce than ever before, poverty, racism and sexism are still very much alive and well. This is the United States of America, the richest and most powerful country in the world. Yet for many of its marginalized citizens, opportunities parallel those in far less developed countries, and those limited opportunities often line the path to incarceration.

Something is not only outrageously wrong with this picture, it has become the acceptable norm among so many of its people: Police abuse, abject

poverty and mass incarceration. This country spends six times as much money on incarceration than it does on education. How is it tolerated by so many people that such extreme disparity, not marginalized or hidden but in plain and distasteful sight, can exist?

***"It is this knowledge and depth that are required in order to move the conversation beyond shallowness"***

I see and long for a genuine racial reconciliation and a genuine accounting for the shockingly glaring disparity in quality of life—which I don't believe is really comprehended either by the privileged or by the disenfranchised. I long for this reconciliation not just in words, or from some moralistic impulse propelled by a vague notion of "nonviolence," which is preached mainly to the rage of victims of oppression. I long for a reconciliation forged out of a deeper understanding of the historical threads, a real reckoning with the intentional, violent and state-sanctioned oppression that created the economic and social conditions that we all are confronted with today.

Racism—as an ideology and

institutional arrangement, and the desire, the rage, the concerns and the guilt engendered by those on both sides of the issue—is nothing new. And always, there is someone, somewhere who stands up and calls out passionately for racial reconciliation and racial justice. There is often someone pleading with America to engage in "a conversation about race." This conversation is necessary. It is crucial. All too frequently, however, the conversation doesn't go very far. I believe this is because in order to really have that conversation, there needs to be a far broader and deeper acknowledgement of the historical devastation that has been thrust upon the once enslaved Africans of this nation.

I'm not only referring to slavery—that human beings were actually kidnapped and brought here against their will—but also a more cohesive understanding about what has been done to these human beings over the last 400 years since we got here. I don't mean assenting to some disconnected facts about a lynching or a drinking fountain, but grasping that there has been an organized, powerful, pervasive, relentless attack on a certain group of people, perpetrated by their own government and its laws and carried out by its citizens in countless insidious ways.

This is critical to understanding why there is such a wide gap in every area of this society. It speaks to why Africans in America are relegated to certain quarters/sections, into areas of inferior housing and education.

Why Katrina was not just a hurricane (if you're Black), and why so many of us are consumed by the criminal justice system. It also speaks to the reason why a majority of White children are taught and learn in secure environments free of poverty, stray bullets and police brutality.

Learning and deeply understanding the history, learning the depths and the nuance of the pain, and suffering, and difference... It is this knowledge and depth that are required in order to move the conversation beyond shallowness, because it is necessary for us to move below the surface in order to dismantle the structures weighing upon, shaping, and forming the core of our lives and our interactions.

As long as we stay at the surface level, it is easy to miss or dismiss the enormous magnitude of what has happened around racism in this country, and trying to have a conversation without understanding the magnitude goes nowhere. A conversation to what end? What good is there in our having a conversation if all we are seeking to achieve is a little more pleasant and polite feeling between the races? Is it just about how to live congenially and tolerantly in our inequality? Does the conversation not include action toward structural changes? Does it not hint of redistribution or relinquishing of any resources and privileges? If it's business as usual, what's the purpose? After intense exchange of racial experiences, after listening to each other's racial stories... after we smile and laugh and become friendlier toward each other, what's next? The same racist institutions are still intact. And we resume our separate lives and wait for the next news flash that proves Black lives do not matter.

## Transgenders Fighting to Be Socially Accepted in Prison and After Incarceration

By Juan Moreno Haines  
Managing Editor

When Kristin Schreier Lyseggen moved from her native Norway to Berkeley, she saw it as an opportunity to understand the lives of people struggling to survive on the fringes of society.

"All I knew was that I needed to find people who were not easily accepted in mainstream society," she writes in the introduction of her book *The Women of San Quentin: Soul Murder of Transgender Women in Male Prisons*.

*The Women of San Quentin* chronicles interviews with nine formerly incarcerated transgender women. The interviewees recounted physical and psychological abuse while also showing humanity, humor and self-respect.

The interviews with these formerly incarcerated women ultimately leads Lyseggen to ask in *The Women of San Quentin*, "How can any sane, democratic society justify keeping transgender women in maximum security prisons for men?"

### BOOK REVIEW



Author Kristin Schreier Lyseggen

In order for transgender inmates in California prisons to receive necessary medical care and mental health treatment, nine of the state's 34 prisons have been designated to house male-to-female transgender inmates and two to house female-to-male transgender inmates.

Prisoners with treatment situations are reviewed on a "case-by-case," basis California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation (CDCR) spokesman Jeffrey Callison said in an email interview with *Lavender Magazine*.

CDCR spokeswoman Terry

Thornton added, "If a transgender inmate wants female items, and she's in a male institution, she'll have access to those items."

Describing herself in an interview with *Lavender* magazine as "white, privileged and straight," Lyseggen contended that people like her need to "start getting involved and not treat these people as second-and third-class citizens." <http://www.lavendermagazine.com/mylavender/thewomenof-sanquentincomesamidhistoric-changes/>

Lyseggen's underlying point: people just want to live their lives.

Transgender women began arriving at San Quentin a couple of years ago. When they got here, I witnessed some of the same prejudices against them highlighted in *The Women of San Quentin*. On the Lower Yard and in personal conversations, I heard all kinds of negative comments about these women regarding their life choices. Ultimately, I agree with Lyseggen's premise that people

just want to live their lives, because I, too, am a second- and third-class citizen based on my status as a prisoner.

Reading about the childhood of Janetta Johnson, one of the transgender women profiled in Lyseggen's book, forced me to understand how she did her time in a federal prison in Oregon.

She couldn't get good-time credits if she went to the hole, so she stayed on the mainline and dealt with the BS.

"Abuse from childhood has followed her through life like a ghost," Lyseggen writes in *The Women of San Quentin*.

Johnson is quoted as saying, "The emotional pains, scars, lumps, bumps and bruises outweighed anything that happened to me physically."

The book ends with both a question and argument: "What do we owe a 'criminal'? To which I would answer that all of us suffer when someone's humanity is denied in the way experienced by so many of our people who end up in US prisons."



# Ice Extiende Carceles Para Mujeres Inmigrantes

El numero promedio de inmigrantes ha descendido 23% del promedio diario del año pasado

**Por Salvador Solorio**  
**Escritor del Gremio Periodístico**

Oficiales de inmigración han anunciado planes para extender facilidades de detención para mujeres en el Sur de California. La Inmigración y la Aduana anunciaron que 640 camas se

añadirán a la Institución de detención de Adelanto en el desierto noroeste de Los Angeles. Dirigida por la compañía GEO, con fines de lucro, se calcula que esta institución tendrá 1,940 camas. Existe la necesidad de un espacio para colocar camas para mujeres con antecedentes penal-

es, inmigrantes con necesidades médicas, personas buscando asilo y otros detenidos, La Prensa Asociada informo el 7 de Julio. David Marin, director del ICE, dijo que la acción ayudara a consolidar el espacio de la detención porque las camas son costosas y difícil de encontrar en San Francisco.

El plan de expansión en Adelanto se efectuara cuando el número de inmigrantes detenidos haya disminuido en la escala nacional. El numero promedio de inmigrantes ha descendido 23% del promedio diario del año pasado. Los abogados de la inmigración han puesto en duda la calidad del cuidado medico en la facilidad de Adelanto, la cual fue abierta en 2013, y también cuestionan de la necesidad cuando dos facilidades del condado solo están cerca del 70% ocupadas. ICE anuncio sus planes para trasladar a detenidos transexuales de Santa Ana a Adelanto, y ubicar a reos transexuales de acuerdo al género con el cual se identifican. ICE pagara \$111 en albergar a un detenido en Adelanto, comparado con \$118 en la facilidad de Orange County y \$142 en centros en el área de San Diego. El promedio nacional es \$122 por día, AP informo.

**-Traducción Miguel Quezada**

## Presos a Traves de los Estados Unidos Envejeciendo

**Por Lee Jaspar**  
**Escritor del Gremio Periodístico**

Presos están envejeciendo a través de todos los Estados Unidos, de acuerdo a Jacob Gershman en su bloque de leyes *Wall Street Journal*. “Prisioneros de 50 años de edad y mayores representa la población que aumenta mas rápido en las prisiones federales y estatales,” escribió Gershman. Presos avanzados en edad parecen estar relacionados con la población que envejece en general. Basado en descubrimientos obtenidos en parte por el departamento de censo de los Estados Unidos, se estima que tan solo los presos entre las

edades de 50 y 64 años son responsables por la mitad del aumento en la población anciana, escribió Gershman. El inspector General del Departamento de Justicia descubrió recientemente que el encarcelamiento de presos de 50 años y mayores de 50 años cuesta 8 por ciento más en relación con los presos jóvenes, debido principalmente a la necesidad de cuidado médico. Investigadores descubren que las consecuencias del aumento de presos que están envejeciendo son inevitables. “Los diseñadores de las pólizas deben tomar en consideración como balancear el interés publico en cuanto a seguridad con su costo social y económico... La primera y mejor solución a largo plazo es reducir el gasto

general de los presos y los costos de asistencia médica,” de acuerdo a los investigadores citados por Gershman. Parece haber varias opiniones para explicar el aumento en la población de presos que están envejeciendo. Algunos mencionan que la expansión de bebes puede ser responsable por la mitad, mientras que otras personas dicen que la tendencia esta vinculada a los altos índices del uso de drogas previo por parte de los reos que están envejeciendo. Otras personas atribuyen el crecimiento de los presos ancianos a las largas sentencias ocasionadas por leyes más severas y pólizas adoptadas empezando en el año de 1980.

## Solitary Confinement Grows in United States

**By Juan Haines**  
**Managing Editor**

Use of segregated housing in U.S. prisons and jails has risen significantly in recent years, even as evidence grows that the practice harms inmates. The number of federal inmates in segregated housing, commonly termed solitary confinement, grew 17 percent between 2008 and 2013, according to data from the U.S. Government Accountability Office cited in a new report by the Vera Institute of Justice. That was nearly triple the 6 percent rise in the overall federal prison population during the same period.

derstood, and that alternatives are expensive. But in practice, solitary confinement instead remains a management tool for prison and jail officials due to misunderstandings on when and how to use it, the report states. “Vera’s experience in the field has shown that disruptive behavior—such as talking back, being out of place, failure to obey an order, failing to report to work or school or refusing to change housing units or cells—frequently lands incarcerated people in disciplinary segregation.” Officials additionally say, solitary confinement is needed to protect some inmates, such as former law enforcement officers and public officials; those with mental illness, developmental or intellectual disabilities; and those vulnerable because of their sexuality, or in danger of retaliation from other prisoners because of sex offenses against children. However, under the pretense of protection, these vulnerable inmates are placed in the same conditions and restriction reserved for inmates who commit the most violent and dangerous acts.

## Vast Majority of Elected U.S. Prosecutors Are White Males

Sixty percent of the states do not have a single elected black prosecutor

**By Kevin D. Sawyer**  
**Journalism Guild Chairman**

White men make up the majority of prosecutors in the United States, according to a study funded and published by the Women Donors Network. The study found that 95 percent of the prosecutors elected in the U.S. are White; 79 percent of whom are White men. It also revealed that more than 60 percent of the country’s 50 states do not have a single elected Black prosecutor. “Of the 2,437 elected prosecutors serving around the country, which includes officials at the state and local levels, just 61 are Black,” *The Slate Group* reported. *Slate* said recent media focus has been between politicians, police targeting minorities, “and laws that impose harsh mandatory sentences on non-violent drug offenders.” Power in the American justice system rests with prosecutors; the result is “systemic bias,” *Slate* stated. “Americans are taking a new look at the relationship between race, gender and criminal justice — in the failures to indict police officers from Ferguson to Staten Island, the rogue prosecutions of women who terminated their pregnancies from

Indiana to Idaho, and in the epidemic of mass incarceration,” said Donna Hall, president and CEO of the Women Donors Network. A similar perspective was presented by *The New York Times* in July: “Prosecutors decide in most criminal cases whether to bring charges. And, because so many criminal cases end in plea bargains, they (prosecutors) have a direct hand in deciding how long defendants spend behind bars.” *Slate* noted: “The American criminal justice system is under intense scrutiny for its role in crippling Black communities through mass incarceration.” The women’s network study concluded many prosecutors are elected in “down-ballot” races held in off-year elections, where there is a low voter turnout. A recent study revealed that 85 percent of all incumbent prosecutors run for office unopposed, according to Ronald Wright, a professor at Wake Forest University School of Law. “What this shows us is that, in the context of a growing crisis that we all recognize in criminal justice in this country, we have a system where incredible power and discretion is concentrated in the hands of

one demographic group,” said Brenda Choresi Carter of the women’s network who led the study. According to Justice for All data, of 57 counties counted in California (which has 58 counties) and the State Attorney General’s Office, 49 of the elected district attorneys in California are defined as White. The remaining eight are defined as Asian-American or Pacific Islander, Black or African-American, Hispanic or Latino, multiracial, and “two or more races.” “I think most people know that we’ve had a significant problem with lack of diversity in decision-making roles in the criminal justice system for a long time,” said Bryan A. Stevenson, founder of the Equal Justice Initiative and author of the book *Just Mercy*. Federal prosecutors, who are appointed to office, were not included in the study. The Women Donors Network is a philanthropic group of about 200 women. One of its focuses is on the race and gender of elected officials. The data, according to *The New York Times*, was compiled and analyzed by the Center for Technology and Civic Life, a nonpartisan group specializing in the aggregate of civic data sets.

**REPORT**

While some prison officials and policy makers defend the practice, the report, *Solitary Confinement: Common Misconceptions and Emerging Safe Alternatives*, argues that in Europe, solitary confinement is regarded as torture and that more humane policies would better serve inmates. The report seeks to correct what it calls common misconceptions about solitary confinement, including that it deters violence and disruptive behavior among the general inmate population, that it protects at-risk inmates, and that while conditions may be stark, they are not inhumane. Over the past 150 years, several reports have found, “subjecting an individual to more than 10 days of involuntary segregation results in a distinct set of emotional, cognitive, social and physical pathologies.”

**SOLITARY CONFINEMENT**

When an inmate is placed in solitary confinement, he or she is confined to a cell (either alone or with a cellmate) for 22 to 24 hours a day with limited contact with the natural world. The experience disrupts social interaction, removes “the sights and sounds of life,” and there are severe restrictions on “eating, showering or recreating.” Prison officials say solitary confinement is used only as a last resort, the harmful effects are overstated and not well un-

**FEDERAL PRISON**

In the federal prison system, and at least 19 states, officials are permitted to hold people in segregated housing indefinitely, Vera reports. In September, the California changed its Security Housing Unit (SHU) lock-up procedures, so that no inmate could be held in there indefinitely. Prison reformers expect other states to follow the California’s reforms as to how inmates are assigned to SHUs and how long they stay there, *UPI* reports. More than 2,000 prisoners in California SHUs are expected to be affected by the change. Those subjected to solitary confinement are at times permanently harmed by it, even after being released from prison, according to Vera’s report. “Between 1987 and 2007, California released an estimated 900 incarcerated people each year directly to the community from its secure housing units; in 2013, Texas released more than 1,200 incarcerated people in this way.”



# Vocational Trades Give Prisoners Hope for Success After Release

**By Juan Haines  
Managing Editor**

Inmates doing time at San Quentin State Prison take good advantage of one prison system idea that's designed to ensure they leave prison with a certified marketable trade that pays them a livable wage.

Vocational plumbing is one of 18 trades taught in Career Technical Education. Currently, 27 inmates are enrolled in the class.

To complete the four levels of instruction, the self-pace

program takes students between 15 and 24 months to complete.

"All these guys are getting ready to work," said instructor Zack Pryor. "They are being taught skills so that they could leave prison as apprentices or to run their own business."

Inmates also learn resume writing and how to fill out job applications, Pryor said.

Inmate Gregory Bibbs, 49, who arrived in San Quentin in 2011, began the class four months ago. "I'm already a

certified welder," Bibbs said. "I wanted to put another trade under my belt." Bibbs is also enrolled in the Lassen College correspondence program.

"I wanted to take a trade that I could use upon release," said Fanon Figgers, 45.

Figgers is a life-term inmate who participates in several programs such as the violence prevention programs, No More Tears, and Project L.A. Figgers also is in the faith-based programs, Graced Out Ministries and Maliki Dads.



Vocational instructor Zack Pryor explains how the Solar/Wind Energy Training System function



ELITE Supply Source Service Team

One skill inmates learn in the plumbing class is the need for a good industrial supplier. Sean Luigs, co-owner of Elite Supply Source, talked to the inmates about the distribution of industrial supplies to state prisons.

Since starting the company three years ago with Jon Schultz, Luigs said they are working hard to create a great team. "We believe in the phrase, 'a chain is only as strong as its weakest link.'"

In addition to distributing plumbing supplies, the Rancho Cordova company distributes safety equipment, chemicals and paints, tools and construction materials.

"My competitive advantage is the personal touch that I put into my company and sales," Luigs said. "I am passionate about what I do. I modeled my company to compete with billion dollar companies."

Several students asked Luigs if Elite Supply Source would hire ex-offenders and whether he supported the Ban-the-Box movement that removes questions about criminal convictions off job application forms.

"I don't even know what that term is," Luigs said. "I don't want to know what it means. I'm all about the families who work for me."

Luigs said that earlier this

year Elite Supply Source interviewed two ex-offenders.

"The biggest thing we look for in an employee is the attitude," Luigs said. "However; the guys we interviewed just weren't as good as the guy we hired. It had nothing to do with the fact they were ex-offenders."

Luigs offered a couple of quotes that he said are important to keeping a positive business attitude: "Well done is better than well said," by Benjamin Franklin. And, after meeting runner Jim Ryun, Luigs said he liked this Ryun quote: "Motivation is what gets you started. Habit is what keeps you going."

# Congressman Mark DeSaulnier and Judge Clare Maier Join Inmates for National Addiction Recovery Celebration

**By Rahsaan Thomas  
Staff Writer**

California Congressman Mark DeSaulnier (D-11th District) and Contra Costa County Judge Clare Maier sat swapping stories with incarcerated men about triumphs over addiction as the live bands Quentin Bleu and One Finger Short played original music in the background. They were inside the prison to attend the National Addiction Recovery celebration.

Addiction Recovery Counseling (ARC) hosted the event. Members of Options Recovery Services, Seeds of Sophia and Support 4 Recovery joined in the celebration, which included food cooked by John "Yahya" Parratt.



Congressman Mark DeSaulnier and Robin Guillen

"September is Recovery Month," said Rick Baez, who helped start the ARC program. "This is a national event. The goal of today's event is to connect the men on the inside to the outside to remove the shame of recovery."

Outside guests and inmates sat inside a trailer on the Lower Yard while the bands played just outside. Each person in the circle spoke about removing the stigma of addiction—many by sharing their personal stories.

Congressman DeSaulnier talked about how substance abuse and depression affected his life. His father was a judge who lost his job, went bankrupt and committed suicide.

"We have to get out of the culture of shame, judgment and blame and get to acceptance, change and redemption," said DeSaulnier.

Judge Maier was there to support recovery.

"I'm a servant, and this event gives me a chance to serve," said Maier.

She spoke about the ability to wait in a space of angst or anger—or to pause when things go wrong.

"The guys should use the time they were given as encouragement to help turn their lives around," she said.

ARC is a 16-week program that trains inmates to be certified addiction counselors, according to Borey "Peejay" Ai.

Incarcerated ARC member Isiah Daniels told the guest, "I figured I wasn't an addict because he didn't look like me." Once Daniels accepted he had a problem, he was able to ask for help and get it to beat addiction.

"Every step you take is a step in the right direction," added Daniels.

Gregory G. Coates talked about how AA and Indian Ceremony helped him break away from addiction.

Outside guests were inspired and shared their stories.

Kiki Kessler (Seeds of Sophia) said, "I drove with a broken arm and shoulder to get here. She has taught Reentry Action Planning class in H-Unit for 12 years.

"I'm inspired by the changes I see these men have made in their lives. That's what keeps me volunteering," she added.

Geraldine Moore of Support 4 Recovery said, "For recovery to take place, you have to peel back the layers of your life to see why you are self-medicating. Then work through the hurts, hang-ups and habits." She added, "Life is not about waiting for the storm to pass; it's about learning to dance in the rain."

Kristin Lobos of Support 4 Recovery Youth Advocate said,

"What motivates me is I'm a mother of a recovering teen addict. I think we should treat addiction as a health issue and not a crime. A lot of people profit off our suffering. Know that your family is worthy of help and support. Once we remove the stigma of shame, we can focus on the recovery."

Karen Cordill, a Support 4 Recovery supporter, said, "I think people are very hard and judgmental on the outside because they judge themselves so much, so they judge others." She took a day off from work to attend. It was her first time inside San Quentin.

"It's great to see the recovery," said Jeanie Slater of Axis Unity Health. "You see changes in people's lives. It's like we are giving to each other, and that's the spirit of recovery, the spark to keep on going."

Support 4 Recovery president and co-founder Tom Aswad said, "When I come in and

work with the ARC program, it's probably the best aspect of my recovery. There is no group like the aftercare here on the outside."

Support 4 Recovery operates without a constant source of funding, office space or employees to provide the ARC program with its educational needs.

"What I really like about the program is that the facilitators are us," said Eddie Herena, an ARC graduate. "I can relate."

DeSaulnier spoke in an interview about criminal justice.

"We need to change our justice system. A lot of politics is about scaring people constantly," said DeSaulnier. "It's not evidence-based."

"You can see over the course of time which programs work and which don't," he added. "Maybe we should go upstream and find out why all these kids are falling in the water."

—**Marcus Henderson**  
contributed to this story



Steve Emrick, Tom Aswad and Judge Clare Maier



# Can Rap Music Promote Positive Change and Growth?

## Yard Talk

By **Rahsaan Thomas**  
Staff Writer

Can mainstream rap music return to its positive roots? The Yard Talk panel debated whether a paradigm shift was possible.

**Demond Lewis:** “The Powers That Be won’t allow you to turn it around. They won’t give the airplay or push to positive music. How can we change something that society and the Powers That Be want? I can say I’m against that music, but I’ll buy their

CD because of a cut I like.”

**John “Yahya” Johnson:** “The media agenda is pushing cultural destruction. How do you deal with that? How do you fend off that when the Top-20 is pushing sex, drugs and murder and we talking about these things happening in the ghetto?”

**Marcus Henderson:** “Once we admit that a spiritual war has been declared on us, then we can understand how to engage overt action against what controls us mentally, spiritually and emotionally.”

**Johnson:** “Change starts when the people get fed up.”

**Lewis:** “Def Jam, Ruthless, Cash Money all owned by non-Blacks. Rap is something we made popular, yet we don’t even own 50-percent. We don’t control it, so how can we change it?”

**Eric Curtis:** “Music is a trend, so it is going to change.”

The Roots’ mainstream success “demonstrates that it is possible for Black men in hip-hop to represent a masculinity that is tasteful, intellectual and transformative,” wrote Crystal Belle in *From Jay-Z to Dead Prez: Examining Representations of Black*

*Masculinity in Mainstream Versus Underground Hip-Hop Music* for the Journal of Black Studies.

*“The media agenda is pushing cultural destruction”*

“The story of The Roots proves there is room in mainstream hip-hop for alternative notions of Black masculinity. It also proves that what would typically be considered ‘underground’ in nature due to

its subject matter regarding equality and anti-racism, can also have mainstream appeal.” Antwan “Banks” Williams agrees.

**Williams:** Common and John Legend just came with the *Glory* song that may start a snowball effect of good music. Christian rapper Lecrae is starting to be accepted in the mainstream because of his talent. He is talking about the ‘60s civil rights movement, being a young man dealing with pressures of gang banging and selling his soul. It’s starting to resonate.”

**Richard “Bonaru” Richardson:** “I absolutely believe positive rap can come back. Rap is an outlet – it is a voice of reason. People are always looking for a new trend, a new curve. That’s why rap will never die.”

Richardson believes the music can change direction like he did. He started out writing lyrics about negative themes.

“Once I learned that rapping is a way to get a message out to the public, I started using rapping as a positive voice.”

“Lifestyle when you stuck between a blunt and a bottle/ No family visits, no wife, no father figure or role model/ A follower, too young to do the things that I want to/ Now I’m way too old to do the things that I gotta do,” rapped Richardson.

Williams’ lyrics also leave room for hope.

“I see the world spinning in a downward spiral/ learned how to tell the future by reading the Bible/ my present circumstance makes every heartbeat vital/ as a picture-perfect death can somehow go viral/ outlined in chalk people pose for the camera/ others demonstrate, I can’t breathe with their hands up/ you got two choices, you can lay down or stand up/ or let it take its course if you don’t cut it like cancer,” rapped Williams.

The panel feels that it’s possible to bring positivity back to rap music but only by starting all over.

In the final part of this series, the panel will discuss how to reverse the trend of these negative themes.

*-Trenise Ferreira contributed to this story*

# What Can You Be Most Thankful for in Your Life?

*‘I am thankful for the love of my family’*

By **Angelo Falcone**  
Journalism Guild Writer

November is the last of four months in the year with just 30 days. This year, November has five Sundays and five Mondays.

Daylight Saving Time ends on Sunday, Nov. 1; Election Day is Tuesday, Nov. 3, Veteran’s Day is on Wednesday, Nov. 11, and Thanksgiving Day is on Thursday, Nov. 26. A full moon is expected on Wednesday, Nov. 25.

For members of the Christian community, All Saints Day is Sunday, Nov. 1, All Souls Day is Monday, Nov. 2, Christ the King is Sunday, Nov. 22, and the First Day of Advent is Sunday, Nov. 29.

The World Almanac lists November as National AIDS Awareness Month, National American Indian Heritage Month, National Adoption Month, American Diabetes Month and National Peanut Butter Lovers’ Month.

The two astrological signs in November are Scorpio, the sign of the Scorpion, (Oct. 24 to Nov. 21) and Sagittarius, the sign of the Archer, (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21). The birthstone for November is topaz.

We may all possess more things — tangible or not — than

we care to remember. Many of the things we possess, we often take for granted. In the spirit of gratefulness, Asked on the Line asked, “Of all the things that we all have in our lives, what are you most thankful for having? Intangible and tangible.”

1. Carlos Flores  
My sanity. I am glad I have it. I am thankful for my TV. I love my TV. It is a big part of my life. If I did not have Charlie Rose at night, life would really suck. TV is beautiful.

2. Roger Chavez  
I am thankful for the love and support of my family.

I really love my tennis shoes and my radio. My personal clothing makes me feel like I am not so much in prison.

3. Anouthinh Pangthong  
Family support is important for me. I am thankful for all of their support.

I am grateful for having my grey cap. I never go anywhere without it.

4. Orlando Harris  
I am thankful for my mind. As far as something tangible, I am glad I have my eyeglasses. Without these, life would be rough!

5. Jesus Flores  
I am thankful for the love of my kids and I am grateful for having shoes and clothes.

6. Martin Gomez  
I am very grateful for having time to study music with my guitar and to go to school.

I am thankful for having clothes and shoes. I have so much I am grateful for having.

*“I am grateful for the love of my children and for the things that we are given, bad or good”*

7. Miguel Saldana  
I am thankful for the love of my family and for access to water. Without love or water, we can die of thirst.

I really like my electronic dictionary to help me interpret English words to Spanish.

8. Jose Vieyra  
I am very grateful for my ed-

ucation so that I can help other human beings.

I am thankful for my educational materials to learn.

9. Raymond Bodine  
My faith is the most precious thing and I am grateful for my glasses. Without my glasses, I would not be able to see.

10. Jesus Escobar  
I am grateful for the love of my children and for the things that we are given, bad or good, like clothes, food and medical attention. Even if we have to go through certain people who do not like us, we get them.

11. Somdeng Thongsy  
Relationships are important. It allows me to communicate and connect with others. As far as tangible items, I am grateful for food and clothing. These are necessities, basic needs.

12. Brian Shipp  
The love of God. In my life, God is first and foremost. Through him, everything is possible. Without him, nothing is possible. The other thing I took for granted is my freedom.

I am thankful for my Bible. The Bible gives me guidance and wisdom on how to be the best man, person, husband, friend and father than I can be. It is my instruction.

## Asked On The Line

## MOVIE REVIEW

The general tenor of *Minority Report*, and retributive theories, is that the pre-cog system is unethical because if even one innocent person can wake up with a life sentence, the system is unconscionable. We agree, but it’s a disturbing ethic that misses the elephantine travesty crouched by the couch.

SQ Reviews meets in the lot between the education department and the *San Quentin News* to talk about the elephant.

“You have this system that can predict who will commit a crime before even the would-be perpetrator knows it,” says Emile DeWeaver. “This society is so caught up in retributive justice that they’re imprisoning people for crimes they’ll commit in the

future. Nobody has thought, ‘Hey, we know everyone who might commit a crime. Let’s get them some help BEFORE they ruin their lives.’”

“It’s inhumane,” says Juan Meza. “It says these human lives aren’t worth saving because they don’t have value. This same logic ruled in the 1990s when they started trying more and more children as adults. Politicians pushed this idea that some kids are born bad. The public believed in this bad-seed myth, that these troubled kids couldn’t change, so it was okay to lock them out of society forever.”

Rahsaan Thomas remembers a quote from the only fringe-thinker on the show. “In order for pre-cog to work, the public

has to believe that people can’t change. The whole thing reminds me of mass incarceration. The only way a moral country can make up 5 percent of the world’s population but hold 25 percent of the world’s incarcerated population is by believing that the incarcerated population is somehow inherently bad.”

Jonathan Chiu agrees, but he offers to play Devil’s advocate. “It kind of sounds like you guys are making a moral argument against mass incarceration. Like you’re saying it’s inhumane. What would you say to someone who said your crime was inhumane, so you don’t deserve humanity?”

Meza, Thomas and DeWeaver start talking at the same time. They talk about how difficult it is to answer the question. Nobody wants to sound like they’re minimizing the heinous nature

of their history, but neither are the members of SQ Reviews willing to be defined by who they used to be.

“I don’t accept that I can’t have morals today because I was a horrible person before,” Meza says. “I’ve done decades of work to get right with Christ, and if I see that something is wrong in my society – my society that I’m a part of, that I’m trying to give back to – I’m going to say something.”

“It’s never okay to deny another’s humanity,” says DeWeaver. “It’s not okay for *Minority Report* to reinforce the inhumanity of justice without compassion. It wasn’t okay when I shot my victims, and it’s not okay for our society to ignore the humanity of the people it incarcerates.”

SQ Reviews rates FOX’s *Minority Report* 1 of 5 dinner cookies.

# Minority Report Focuses on Retributive Justice in a Criminal System

SQ Reviews

How does a focus on retribution break a criminal justice system? Mondays at 9 p.m. you can watch FOX’s new show *Minority Report* and find out.

Inspired by the movie of the same name, FOX’s *Minority Report* portrays a society emerging from the shadow of a utopia where murder didn’t exist because the authorities used psychics (precognitives or “pre-cogs”) to predict murders and arrest suspects before the crime is committed. The system fell apart when it was discovered that innocent people could fall victim to misleading predictions.

Retribution-minded citizens likely agree with the members of SQ Reviews that the pre-cog system is unethical, but our ethics diverge with our reasoning.



**1. Tucson, Ariz.**—“Felons are our best clients,” said Les Boynton, CEO of the apartment company Second Chance Rentals, to *The Associated Press*. “They value their housing.” The Phoenix-based company is expanding operations to Tucson.

**2. Pittsburgh, PA** — Lewis Fogle, 63, served 34 years in prison after being convicted of raping and killing a 15-year-old girl. In August, new DNA testing brought doubt into Fogle’s conviction, which led a judge to void his conviction, *UPI* reports. County prosecutors agreed to dismiss all charges against him.

**3. Philadelphia, PA** — Jesse Krimes has filed a proposed class action against JPMorgan Chase, accusing the bank of charging excessive fees for debit cards issued to federal inmates when they are released, *Reuters* reports. The lawsuit seeks damages for inmates, nationwide, claiming they were forced to accept JPMorgan debit cards to get their own money.

**4. New Orleans, LA** — In New Orleans the transfer of 1,200 prisoners has started as the new \$150 million jail is finally ready to welcome inmates. The old prison had caused tensions between the sheriff, the city and advocate groups due to the jails dilapidated conditions, reports *The Associated Press*.

**5. Springfield, Mass.** — Mark Schand served 27 years in prison



for murder, assault and robbery he did not commit, *The Associated Press* reports. In 2013, Schand won a new trial that included testimony that he was never at the scene of the crime. The prosecutor dropped the case several weeks later. Schand is now seeking financial compensation from law enforcement officers and prosecutors for suppressing police reports, coerced and unreliable witness statements, improper identification

procedures, and “a general pattern of blatant disregard for the law.”

**6. Menard, Ill.** — Mario Casciaro walked out of prison in September after an appellate court overturned his murder conviction in the 2002 case of a missing northern Illinois teenager. Relatives met Casciaro as he left Menard Correctional Center in southern Illinois, *The (Crystal Lake) Northwest Herald* reports. Prosecutors intend to challenge

the ruling in Illinois Supreme Court.

**7. Augusta, Maine** — Jonathan Carey, 39, has been released from prison after serving more than three years of a four-year sentence for sexual assault. A judge ruled his defense attorneys inadequately represented him during the trial, *The Kennebec Journal* reports. Carey has always maintained his innocence.

**8. Concord, N.H.** — Frank Staples, a Taoist, has filed a re-

ligious rights lawsuit against the state after being placed in secure housing for not shaving his beard, *The Associated Press* reports. State prison rules mandate beards be no longer than a quarter inch for safety reasons. Previously, Staples has been denied parole for being placed in secured housing for violating prison rules.

**9. Oklahoma City, OK** — A pilot program could soon give more recreational time to the nearly 1,200 inmates currently locked in solitary confinement in Oklahoma’s maximum security prison, *The Associated Press* reports. The inmates currently receive only five hours per week of solitary recreation time, but the shift away from solitary housing reflects a growing trend in the country, Oklahoma Department of Corrections Director Robert Patton said.

**10. Huntsville, Texas** — Daniel Lee Lopez was executed mid-August for striking and killing a police lieutenant with an SUV during a chase which happened more than six years ago, *The Associated Press* reports. Lopez, 27, became the 10th Texan inmate put to death in 2015. So far, 19 prisoners have been executed in the U.S. Lopez, who has always asked for a speedy execution, was quoted with having said: “I hope this execution helps my family and also the victim’s family.”

# Texas Slows Its Record Pace Of Death Row Executions

By Charles David Henry  
Journalism Guild Writer

The state of Texas is no longer killing Death Row inmates at a record pace. At its peak in 1999, there were 460 men and women sentenced to death. Today, there are only 260 waiting to be executed.

In 2000, the state set an all-time record when 40 Death Row inmates were executed, compared to only 10 in 2014. Only nine inmates have been executed in 2015.

“This year, there have been no new death sentences so far,” according to the Texas Department of Criminal Justice.

This drop in death penalty executions has been supported

across the country. The report attributes the difference to several key factors. One of the major reasons has been the shortage of drugs used in executions.

In 2005, The U.S. Supreme Court ruled that juvenile offenders could not face execution, lessening future sentences as well as sparing 29 offenders on Death Row.

Texas has also revamped its judicial system, giving county prosecutors “the option to pursue life without parole sentences against capital murder defendants,” the report said.

The executive director of the Texas Defender Services, a nonprofit organization of death penalty attorneys, told the *Texas Tribune*, before this

calendar year, “This is the longest we’ve gone in a calendar year in Texas without a new death sentence,” Kathryn Kase added, that zero is significant.

“Life without parole allows us to go back and reverse our mistakes,” Kase said. “We can be really safe in these cases.” Between 2007 and 2014, the state’s number of life without parole sentences jumped from 37 to 96. Currently, 745 prisoners are serving life without parole sentences, nearly three times the number on Death Row.

This year, only three death penalty cases have gone to trial. All have ended with life-without-parole sentences, Kase said.

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# Wrongfully Convicted Man Now Sits on Board of Paroles and Pardons

By Isaiah Thompson-Bonilla  
Journalism Guild Writer

A man who spent 21 years in prison for a rape and murder he did not commit is now sitting on the Connecticut Board of Pardons and Paroles. DNA testing exonerated him and identified the actual perpetrator.

Kenneth F. Ireland was convicted of the savage rape and murder of Barbara Pelkey, when he was 16 years old. He received a 50-year sentence and spent more than half his life behind bars.

Ireland, who always declared his innocence, lost support of friends and family, and turned

to the Connecticut Innocence Project (CIP). Due to the persistence of the CIP, DNA testing was performed and Ireland was exonerated of all charges, *The New York Times* reported on Dec. 20.

Instead of holding Connecticut’s justice system in contempt, Ireland, now 45, allowed his name to be submitted for active membership on the state’s parole board.

Ireland said, “I’ve been on the inside, and I understand the programs, the issues confronting the inmates.”

Connecticut Gov. Dannel P. Malloy nominated Ireland in October 2014, and he was given a temporary position on the

board. Ireland was unanimously confirmed as a full-time board member by a judiciary committee in January.

Ireland has done a lot of work assisting those who have been wrongfully convicted. During this process, Ireland got to know the dean of the University of Connecticut School of Law, Timothy S. Fisher. According to the article, Fisher was instrumental in advocating Ireland’s appointment to the board.

Fisher said, “He has a very clear-eyed understanding of the people in prison.” Fisher went on to mention that because of Ireland’s experience on the inside of prison, he

has the ability to know when someone is putting on a good performance rather than demonstrating the internalization of self-help and rehabilitation.

At the time this article was reported, Ireland was presiding over a hearing which turned out to be his first test. He worked alongside a retired FBI agent, Ralph A. Murphy. Ireland’s preparation was apparent. The hearings were held to address the revocations of parole for 11 men. None was released to the community.

While parole revocation hearings are not as detailed as a regular court hearing, they can be as intimidating for the inmate. The panel members

have the power to grant an inmate parole or revoke the inmate’s parole and send him/her back to lockup for a number of months to years, and the panel’s decisions are final.

Vivien Blackford, a member of the Connecticut Sentencing Commission, was the first person to pitch the idea of Ireland serving on the board. She said, “Having been in prison, he brings so much to the board because he understands the experience, the perspectives, and the reasons that people do what they do.”

In January, the state of Connecticut awarded Ireland \$6 million for his wrongful incarceration.



# The Franchise Wins Intramural League Again

By **Rahsaan Thomas**  
Sports Editor

The Franchise won the Intramural Basketball League championship for the second year in a row.

“It’s the first time a team has won back-to-back championships since I’ve been here,” said Ishmael Freelon, the former Intramural commissioner.

Franchise members were: Harry “ATL” Smith, Anthony Ammons, Marvin Cosby, Donte Smith, Kenneth Dozier, Montrell Vines, Joshua Burton, Demon Lewis and Dave Lee. Franchise was coached by Brad Shells, who also plays for the S.Q. Warriors.

They were on their way to sweep every team in the playoffs, as they did last year, when Squad Up won game three, 81-80.

Squad Up members were: Allan McIntosh, Oris “Pep” Williams, J. “Mailman” Ratchford, Carlyle “Otter” Blake, Rafael Cuevas, Fateem Jackson and Edward Moss. They were coached by Orlando Harris, who also coaches the S.Q. Kings.

The first three games of the finals were decided in the final minutes. That’s when the Franchise employs its trap defense.

“We lost every game in the last three minutes,” said Williams. “They are a good team. Defense was their calling card. All four games could have gone either way. I’m proud of our team for not giving up.”

Game four was no exception. With five minutes left in the game, Squad Up was winning 86-80. Then Lewis nailed a three-pointer. Ammons followed with a floater, making the score 86-85.

Squad Up found itself down 92-96 after Cosby dropped three treys in a row.

Down four points with one minute on the game clock and 10 seconds on the shot clock, Squad decided to foul Ammons to stop the clock. Ammons made one of two from the line.

“We got impatient at the end of the game,” said Williams. “The clock was against us no matter what. Fouling Ammons is a good strategy because he’s not a strong free-throw shooter.”

Cuevas answered with a shot range set shot making the score 97-94, but with time winding down, Squad Up continued to foul to keep seconds on the clock.

Franchise players Vines and Ammons increased the lead from the free-throw line, and Squad Up wasn’t able to score again. Franchise took the final championship game, 100-94.

Members of the Holy Names University tennis team came into San Quentin and played Inside Tennis Team members.

James Ryan, a freshman from London, said it was his first time in America and first time inside a prison.

Inside Tennis Team members Orlando Harris and Paul Alleyne gave the young visitors a challenge in the Sept. 19 contest.

“It’s always fun to be able to go up against younger men,” said Harris, who is 52. “It gives

me a barometer to judge where I’m at.”

Although the HNU won, 4-1, two games went to deuce.

“I would put you guys at a 4.0 league level,” said an HNU player.

Harris started as a novice nine years ago.

Matt Halligan said he came in because, “I’m really interested in learning about prison. Coach said let’s do this. He told me about the Bryon Brothers and the Golden State Warriors playing here.”

followed by Lewis with 20 points and Ammons with 14.

Williams led Squad Up with 32 points. McIntosh had 26 with 15 rebounds. Ratchford added 16 with 11 rebounds.

Jackson played through a foot injury.

“Our coach went on a visit and that hurt. We could have used somebody to call timeouts,” said Williams.

Scott Howard, the coach of HNU, said his guys are ranked 33 in the U.S. They are in the NCAA Division 2.

“I thought it would be a great experience to see that a few miles away life is really different and to give back,” said Howard. “I wanted to bring the whole team, but they only let us bring in six guys.”

“It gives me a sense of being a part of society and to test my skills against up and coming stars,” said ITT’s Clay Long.

—**Rahsaan Thomas**

## Holy Names University Tests SQ Inside Tennis Team

# Hardtimers Softball Team Out-Slugs Saints, 17-9

By **Marcus Henderson**  
Journalism Guild Writer

The San Quentin Hardtimers softball team put on a hitting fest to overcome the visiting Saints, 17-9.

The Hardtimers were down 6-0 in the fourth, until Cory Woods’ single ignited a major rally. Every Hardtimer singled and scored a run for an 11-6 comeback. The Saints were finally able to field the ball for two outs and a pop-fly.

“Today everything was working. We regrouped and put together a string of hits. Everybody played hard,” said Dan White, Hardtimers manager.

The Hardtimers scored three



Cory Woods (cap) and John Windham watching their teammates rally

runs in the fifth. John “Dunnie” Windham and Cory Woods were walked. Then Orlando Harris doubled for two RBIs. Ke Lam Nghiep singled to score Harris for the 14-6 lead.

The Saints put up three runs in the seventh.

Dillion Johnson singled and Steve Cabezud hit a line-drive double for the RBI. Cabezud advanced to third on a Dean Sims single. Chris Bogart singled for the RBI to close the gap 14-9.

“We love to come here and compete. It’s good ministry,” said Sims.

Hardtimers added three more runs in the seventh. Jason Jones and Isaih “Zeke” Daniels led off with singles.

Then Angelo Ramsey belted a triple for two RBIs. Windham doubled to score Ramsey for the 17-9 victory.

The visiting Saints’ players were members of Bridge Church, Santa Rosa Christian and the Alliance.

“We always feel blessed to play these guys. Their coming here helps in our humanity,” said Hardtimer Ramsey.

Visitor Ken Finley added “We came here to share our love for the game and God. No matter what the score is, we come to compete.”

Saint Jim Bennett concluded “We don’t like to lose, but we come here to fellowship. If we can be the hands of Christ, we did our part.”

## Kings Roll Past Bittermen, 69-60; Then Trailblazers, 78-66

The San Quentin Kings defeated two visiting teams on consecutive weekends, taking the Bittermen, 69-60, and the Trailblazers, 78-66, in overtime.

In the Sept. 12 game, Marvin Cosby and Charles “Pookie” Sylvester of the Kings basketball team helped hold off the Bittermen for the victory.

“They all played good; we just had more buckets,” said Sylvester.

The Bittermen had a one-point lead until Sylvester got hot in the first half. He came off the bench and scored nine straight points, including the completion a four-point play that developed from being fouled while making a three-pointer.

“Pookie, don’t you ever play like that again,” joked Bittermen player/coach Ted Saltveit.

It was the first game after coming off Legionnaires’ disease lockdown. Kings captain Brain Asey welcomed the Bittermen and thanked them for coming.

“This is our visit,” he told

them during a half-court huddle with both teams for pre-game greetings.

“I felt good. Sometimes we need a break. The rest probably made my game better,” said Sylvester.

He went for 16 points.

Cosby led the Kings with 23 points.

The Bittermen made a few comeback attempts, coming within four led by Ryan Williams. He had his best game since coming into San Quentin, with 23 points, 10 rebounds, three steals and a block.

“I’ve been training for this day my whole life,” joked Ryan Williams. “We had a change in the cast of characters and this squad clicked for me.”

His teammate, John Taylor, logged eight assists to help. In the second half, Taylor hit Williams with a no-look pass for a layup in traffic.

Meanwhile, Bittermen Aidan Coffino had his worst game since coming into San Quentin. Coffino went three for 16 from

the field, finishing with eight points, three rebounds and an assist.

“I was on fire in the warm-ups. It felt good until they put a defender on me,” said Coffino.

Despite missing 11 three-point attempts, he made a tough no-look layup from under the basket.

The Bittermen played the Sept. 12 game without their tough point guard, Tim Hall, or their former semi-pro player, Will Wheatly.

Neither Kings forward Thad Fleeton nor center J. “Mailman” Ratchford played in the game. Demond Lewis grabbed 13 boards and scored 11 points.

Kings Coach Orlando Harris said his team won because, “They stayed focused.”

In the Sept. 19 game that went into overtime, Ryan Williams topped his 23-point performance the week before by scoring 26 when he returned to San Quentin with the Trailblazers for a rematch.

“I should have had 28, and

then it would have been over in regulation,” said Ryan Williams.

With 23 seconds on the clock, the Trailblazers were up one with Brandon Hargrave at the free-throw line. He made one of two, giving his team a 61-59 lead.

“I can’t keep splitting free throws,” Hargrave said. He made seven out of 16 and scored 11 points with five rebounds, three assists and five steals. New Trailblazer recruit Antwain Capla added nine with eight rebounds and two blocks.

There were eight seconds left in the fourth quarter and the Kings had the ball, down 61-59. Aubra-Lamont “Coocoo” McNeely fired off a three-pointer that clanked off the rim into the hands of teammate Lewis at the top of the key. He passed the ball inside to Sylvester, who made the game-tying layup with one second left to play.

In overtime, the Kings pulled away as the Trailblazers struggled to score.

Lewis finished with 10 points, Thad Fleeton 15, Oris “Pep” Williams 13, Sylvester 11 and Marvin Cosby 10.

“We won because we didn’t stop playing—grind, grind, grind,” said Kings Coach Harris.

Pre-game, referee Cory Woods gave an inspiration talk about how things happen for the best in God’s time.

Woods said, “When things go wrong in our lives, we blame the first person we are suppose to rely on – God. That’s how I felt when the governor took back my parole date. However, I learned so much more about myself in the year since and everything is coming together. Things happen in God’s time, not ours.”

Capla, who coaches kids in basketball, said, “It’s a beautiful experience coming in to play here. These brothers are doing everything they can to keep themselves doing something positive.”

—**Rahsaan Thomas**



# All-Madden Interception Stops All-Stars Drive

By Marcus Henderson  
Journalism Guild Writer

In the season opener, San Quentin's All-Madden flag football team edged out the visiting All-Stars for God Ministry, 18-14.

In the defensive battle, the All-Stars were in a position to win, down four points, on second and goal with a minute left in the game.

All-Madden blitzed All-Star quarterback Adam Perez, forcing an interception into the arms of cornerback Jason Jones, stopping the comeback.

"Our guys maintained their discipline and executed all the things we did in practice," said All-Madden Coach Isaiah Thompson-Bonilla.

To start the game, All-Madden's John "Dunnie" Windham intercepted Perez on the 40-yard line. QB Royce Rose followed with a touchdown pass to Windham for the 6-0 lead, after missing the extra point.

All-Madden struck again on a slant thrown by Rose to Nicholas Darrett for the 12-0 lead.

"It's a challenge out there. This is my first season and I'm grateful for this experience," said Darrett.



Photo by Raphaelle Casale

Tyrrell Price Sr. breaks for 20 yards as he slips pass Benra Williams and A. Jackson

On offense, the All-Stars found their rhythm with screen plays to Tyson Amir and AJ Haynes.

Perez found Amir in the open gap for the TD. The All-Stars missed the extra point.

Amir had six catches for 68 yards and Haynes had four catches for 42 yards on the day.

Down six, All-Stars defensive linemen Aaron Jones and Phil Volta shut down the All-Madden running game. The big

boys pushed All-Madden back to the goal line, where Rose drop the snap for a safety, making the score 12-8.

All-Madden's D. "Zayd" Nichols sacked Perez to close the half.

During half time, Pastor Wayne Jackson and the Rev. Joel Moore gave inspirational speeches on endurance.

"Endurance is fighting those mental blocks that would have you cheat yourself of something

good. You would want to quit, but you have to fight through it. You have to have hope ... expecting something good is going happen," said Jackson.

Moore added, "Endurance is like fighting with weights on. ... These weights might seem like a burden, but when they come off, we are lighter and stronger for God."

The second half started with Amir picking off Rose.

The All-Stars scored again

when Perez moved to the shotgun for more time and found Amir down the middle for the TD and the 14-12 lead.

Perez threw 15/23 for 141 yards, two touchdowns and two interceptions.

All-Madden's Rose dumped a screen pass to Windham, who took it 20 yards to the five-yard line for first and goal.

Windham finished with three catches for 80 yards and a touchdown.

All-Madden ran a reverse trick play as Jones walked it in to take back the lead 18-14.

Rose threw 5/14 for 102 yards, two touchdowns and one interception.

"The line made my job easier. We played as a team, and we got to see the results of our practices," said Rose, referring to linemen Jesus Perez, Gary McDonald and Anthony Redwood.

Kennedy, who used to be a player said, "It's a pleasure to coach these guys I used to play with. Now I'm looking at the game from the outside in."

The Oct. 3 game ended with Amir treating the players to a song from his new spoken-word album, "Traditions," amazing both teams.

## Green Team's Foul Hands Win to SQ Warriors

By Rahsaan Thomas  
Sports Editor

The visiting Christian Sports Ministry's Green Team fouled away a one-point lead with 20 seconds left in regulation, losing to the San Quentin Warriors 105-104.

"Whether we won by one or lost by one, it was a great game," said Ari Warmerdam, who says he played for U.C. Davis back in 2007. This was his first time playing against incarcerated Americans.

With 24 seconds left in the fourth quarter, Green Team point guard David Liss grabbed a long rebound and passed to teammate Chris Blees, who Euro-stepped to the basket for a layup and a 104-103 lead.

"Play hard. They are grown men, and we haven't won in two months and I'm (upset)," said Blees pre-game to 15 teammates huddled around him. He coached in the absence of Bill Epling. Blees didn't put himself into the game until the fourth quarter, where he scored 13 points.



Photo by Raphaelle Casale

Kyle Fowles trying to pass away from Anthony Ammons

Warrior Anthony "Ant" Ammons was bringing the ball down court when someone on the Green Team bench yelled, "Foul him!" Tejas Gala complied, wrapping up Ammons.

"I think it was a good foul because it stopped the clock and gave them a chance to get the ball back and control the game," said Warriors Coach Daniel "Bear" Wright.

From the line, Ammons missed the first shot, but the ref-

eree called a violation because a Green Team player yelled, "Hold up!" Ammons used the second chance well; he hit the next attempt and the additional free throw, giving the Warriors a 105-104 lead, with 20 seconds remaining.

The ball went in to Green Team hot man Warmerdam, who had nailed seven treys. He forsook the long-range shot and dribbled towards the basket, where Smith and another War-

riors defender collapsed, causing Warmerdam to fumble the ball as time ran out.

Warmerdam had 33 points.

"He's was tough - one of the best players I've seen come in here in a minute," said Harry "ATL" Smith. "I started to play him for the shot, but I saw he was capable of driving and closed when he made his move. It was a luckily defensive gamble."

Liss said, "I thought we had them, but we couldn't get a shot off."

Ammons led the Warriors' big three with 30 points and 14 rebounds, including making a three-pointer at the buzzer to close out the second quarter.

"Ant is the heart of this team. Without him, we wouldn't be successful," said Warrior Smith.

Smith added 29 points with 11 rebounds and five steals, including making a layup with the arms of a defender wrapped around him.

"He's a beast," said teammate Allan McIntosh about Smith.

McIntosh added 28 points.

"For 20 seconds we played good defense; the other 47 minutes and 40 seconds, we didn't, but I'll take the win," said Wright.

"I missed Jason Jones. He's huge for me as a ball handler," Wright said about his point guard who missed the game because he was mentoring at-risk youth as part of the SQUIRES program.

Patrick Lacey recruited another Claremont- McKenna teammate, Kevin Sullivan, who managed to block a Smith layup attempt.

Lacey also recruited Liss, who played against him in college. Liss finished with 12 points, two rebounds, five assists and four steals.

"It hurts to admit it, but they're good people," Liss said about his former college basketball rivals.

Remy Pinson added 12 points, with two rebounds, two assists and a steal.

"Thank you for beating us again," joked Blees after the close game.

## Barons Beat A's, 6-3, in Season's Forced Finale

In a hard-fought battle, the visiting Barons beat the San Quentin A's, 6-3, in the season finale.

In the play of the day, the A's Carlyle "Otter" Blake attempted to steal by doing his best Superman impersonation. He leaped over the Barons' second baseman but was still tagged out.

"That was amazing. I've been playing baseball for 20 years and I've never seen anybody jump over a player and the base like that," said Baron Rob Eifler.

San Quentin's baseball sea-

son ended while the prison was on lockdown over Legionnaires' disease.

The Barons' defense was strong all game. Barons catcher Casey Hildreth threw out three A's players attempting to steal.

The father and son team of Frank and Louis Derosa turned double plays with ease to get out of the fourth and fifth.

"We finally had a winning season against these guys. Our confidence is up; now we come here expecting to win," said Baron Kyle Peterson.

The Barons overcame a 2-1

A's lead in the fourth. L. Derosa opened with a double and moved to third on a Rob Foster single. Peterson singled for the score.

Both runners advanced off a wild pitch by the A's Chris Marshall. Baron Chris Lerma singled to score Foster for the 4-2 lead.

The A's scored in the eighth, after Barons Pitcher Eifler walked four straight batters for a run with two outs.

Mike Kremer relieved Eifler and struck out the next batter, holding on to a 4-3 lead.

The Barons added two runs

in the ninth. Josh Lamb doubled, and Jimmy Shoemaker singled. Lerma smashed a line drive double for the two RBIs. The A's got out the inning off two pop flies and a ground out to second, down 6-3.

"We played hard; but we couldn't put enough runs together. We faced some good pitching and hitting. These guys (Barons) really came to play," said the A's Rob Tyler.

The A's other runs came in the second and fourth. Royce Rose singled to score Blake after he walked and stole second. In the fourth, Marshall

singled and Bilal "Mr. 99" Coleman doubled for the RBI.

"This is my farewell season. I will be paroling soon. When you can get guys from different walks of life to create a brotherhood, you have something good. I will support these guys and this program from the outside," said Coleman.

Foster added, "It's sad that this is the last game. We had a good time. We laugh, joked, and we knew it will always be competitive. I'm looking forward for next year."

-Marcus Henderson



# Facebook Czar Zuckerberg Pays a Visit to SQ

*Continued from Page 1*

Later, reflecting on his historic visit, Zuckerberg wrote on his personal Facebook page: "I'm going to keep learning about this topic, but some things are already clear. We can't jail our way to a just society, and our current system isn't working."

Warden Ron Davis, summed up the visit this way:

***"Making our criminal justice system fairer and more effective is a huge challenge for our country"***

"It's special when you can have an innovator, someone who has changed the course of history, who has given man another way to connect with each other — for him to come inside a world that is disconnected and learn about our community and our effort to rehabilitate people is extraordinary."

Zuckerberg said earlier this year he read Michelle Alexander's *The New Jim Crow* and it impacted his view about prisons.

"I wanted to visit a prison that had really good success and meet some of the folks," Zuckerberg said.

The Facebook billionaire and his staff toured CALPIA and other California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation (CDCR) programs.

Zuckerberg was greeted by Warden Davis, Prison Industry Authority board Vice-Chair Darshan Singh and CALPIA General Manager Chuck Pattillo, among others.

Zuckerberg met and talked with offenders from CALPIA's Code.7370, a nationally recognized program in which Silicon Valley tech experts help offenders learn computer-coding skills without Internet access.

After looking at a couple of projects on which the inmates were working, he wanted to know how the class was taught, what inmates were learning,

and how many hours a day they spent coding.

"You know, that's how I got started — coding," Zuckerberg told the inmates.

The new Code.7370 curriculum utilizes program architecture to simulate a live coding environment.

"The real-world job experience this computer coding class provides is beneficial to offenders and the general public," said Pattillo. "If a person can leave prison, get a job and not come back, it saves taxpayers money and keeps communities safer."

Code.7370 is part of CALPIA's Career Technical Education (CTE) program, which has a proven track record for success. Graduates in CTE programs have some of the lowest recidivism rates in the country, with a cumulative rate of 7.13 percent.

While visiting the coding class, Zuckerberg met with Chris Redlitz and Beverly Parenti.

Redlitz and Parenti co-founded another highly successful program for inmates, called The Last Mile (TLM).

They established TLM in 2010 at San Quentin, utilizing the experience and resources of successful entrepreneurs, leveraging their extensive network in the technology business community to help bridge the gap between the penal system and the technology sector.

Redlitz and Parenti also co-founded Code.7370 with CALPIA.

Zuckerberg asked the *San Quentin News* reporting inmates to describe the most surprising thing about the first time they came to prison.

Editor-in-Chief Arnulfo T. Garcia, 63, said he came to prison the first time at age 18. "I was scared," said Garcia, explaining how prison was much more violent back in the 1970s.

"I also came to prison at 18," Design Editor Richard "Bonaru" Richardson said. "It was nothing like TV. There were some people inside who had very negative attitudes, but there were also some good people in here, too. I learned that I had to deal with people as they are."

Richardson told Zuckerberg he grew up in Modesto, where all he encountered were negative role models.

"While in prison, there's no place to run," Richardson said. "I had to face my problems head on, so I had to learn how to avoid those negative role models."

Zuckerberg was interested in how inmates got to San Quentin.

"You don't start your incarceration at a place like San Quentin," Garcia said. "You

have to work your way down to a progressive prison like this."

Garcia talked about the new CDCR program that allows younger offenders to avoid being sent to maximum security prisons and stay at a lower level institution like San Quentin.

"The youngsters we've encountered are very receptive to being at San Quentin," Garcia said. "*San Quentin News* is reaching out to the youngsters to get them into programs so that

they would have a better chance of staying out of prison once they get out."

Referring to his visit, Zuckerberg said, "It's still sinking in," adding "I was surprised by the focus on learning here. Also, I didn't expect to find a fully functioning newspaper."

"Making our criminal justice system fairer and more effective is a huge challenge for our country," Zuckerberg wrote on his Facebook site.



Dr. Priscilla Chan, Warden Ron Davis and Mark Zuckerberg

Alan Barrett of CALPIA



Chuck Pattillo escorting Mark Zuckerberg to San Quentin's computer coding program

Alan Barrett of CALPIA



Aly Tamboura shows Mark Zuckerberg a web application he developed in Code 7370

Alan Barrett of CALPIA

## Dear Reader:

Our message of rehabilitation and criminal justice reform is spreading because of your support. Thank you.

We've expanded into 21 prison libraries in California where the *San Quentin News* is distributed to inmates for free. We are moving closer to our goal: making it accessible to every prisoner in the state of California.

One way you can help us get our rehabilitative message to more prisoners is to donate any amount. Donors who contribute \$40 or more will receive *San Quentin News* for one year.

For tax-deductible contributions using your credit card, please visit our website at [sanquentinnews.com](http://sanquentinnews.com), click on **Support**; scroll to the bottom of the page and click on **Donate Here**. Please allow 6 to 12 weeks for delivery of your first newspaper.

You can also donate by sending funds for the *San Quentin News* to:

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c/o Media Alliance  
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Oakland, CA 94612**

Please do not send personal letters to this address. For faster delivery of your newspaper, please email us at [thesqnews@gmail.com](mailto:thesqnews@gmail.com) and request a copy of the newspaper.

**Thank you again for your continued support.**





File Photo

Professor William J. Drummond's John Gardner Legacy of Leadership Award medal on a White House table

## White House Award For SQ News Adviser

In honor of his years of volunteer work at California's oldest prison, University of California Berkeley Journalism Professor William J. Drummond was invited to the White House on Oct. 22, as part of an award ceremony for serving his community.

Drummond was presented the John W. Gardner Legacy

of Leadership Award on the 50th anniversary of The White House Fellows Foundation program. The award is given in "hopes to draw attention to the depth and breadth of contributions to the nation made by White House Fellows and to highlight the return on

See on SQ News on Page 4

## Golden State Warriors Defeat SQ Warriors, 99-76

By Rahsaan Thomas  
Staff Writer

"Worth its weight in gold," read a sign made from a newspaper article about the Golden State Warriors' 2015 NBA Championship. It was attached to the fence surrounding San Quentin's

Lower Yard, which was packed with hundreds of prisoners eagerly awaiting the arrival of the champion organization for the annual community basketball game.

The game had been postponed since its original date

See on Golden Page 13



Photo by Eddie Herena

Bob Myers snatches the rebound from Jason Jones and Brad Shells as Chris DeMarco watches

## Condemned Inmates Face New Execution Drug



Photo by Lt. S. Robinson

San Quentin State Prison's death chamber

By Juan Haines  
Managing Editor

The public will have a chance to be heard on California's plan for a one-drug execution procedure at a public hearing in Sacramento, scheduled for Jan. 7 next year.

Executions have been on hold in California since 2006, when a federal judge invali-

dated the state's three-drug "cocktail" then used for lethal injections. The judge said executions could continue if the state switched to a one-drug method. Presently around 750 males are confined on San Quentin's Condemned Row. Twenty-one females, confined at a women's facility in the Central Valley, are under death sentences.

In 2011 a Marin County judge rejected a new three-drug procedure proposed by the state, saying it did not explain why it had not chosen a one-drug method.

The controversy about execution methods comes amid a nationwide shortage of lethal injection drugs.

See New Exec. on Page 11

## Delegation From Nepal Courts Look at San Quentin in Search of Restorative Justice



Photo by Raphaela Casale

Top Row: Taonga Rolando Ngoma De Leslie, Bimal Pondel, Ashley Clark, Rajan Kumar KC, Ramkanta Tiwari and Karena H. Montag, Bottom Row: Sujatha Baliga, Rajendra Khare, Devendra Gopal Shrestha, Keshari Raj Pandit and Sonya Shah

By Kevin D. Sawyer  
Journalism Guild Chairman

Six high court judges from Nepal visited San Quentin to learn about its restorative justice practices in prison and to

take part in a group dialogue.

In November, the Victim Offender Education Group (VOEG) and the Insight Prison Project (IPP) hosted a roundtable discussion with the justices, 12 inmates and other

guests.

With the help of Ashley Clark from Asia Foundation and Karena Montag, IPP program supervisor, inmate

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Prisoners United in the Craft of Journalism  
In collaboration with students from the

UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, BERKELEY  
Graduate School of Journalism

Journalism Guild  
of San Quentin

San Quentin News strives to report on forward thinking approaches in criminal justice policies that support positive changes in prisoner behavior, particularly through rehabilitative efforts.

We Want To Hear From You!

The San Quentin News encourages inmates, free staff, custody staff, volunteers and others outside the institution to submit articles. All submissions become property of the San Quentin News. Please use the following criteria when submitting:

- Limit your articles to no more than 350 words.
- Know that articles will be edited for content and length.
- The newspaper is not a medium to file grievances. (For that, use the prison appeals process.) We encourage submitting articles that are newsworthy and encompass issues that will have an impact on the prison populace.
- Please do not use offensive language in your submissions.
- Poems and art work (cartoons and drawings) are welcomed.
- Letters to the editor should be short and to the point.

Send Submissions to:

CSP - San Quentin  
Education Dept. / S.Q. News  
1 Main Street  
San Quentin, CA 94964  
To receive a mailed copy of the San Quentin News, send \$1.61 worth of stamps for postage to:

San Quentin News  
1 Main Street  
San Quentin, CA 94974

The process can be repeated every month if you want to receive the latest newspaper.

BEHIND THE SCENES

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Aimed to Gain

The Respect of Inmates

By Arnulfo Garcia  
Editor-in-Chief

When an inmate first comes into the prison system, the demeanor of correctional officials generally gives him an indication of what prison is going to be like. Rarely is that demeanor upbeat or positive.

Correctional Officer E. Plagman is one of those rare people with a different outlook. His is the voice North Block inmates hear over its PA system on many mornings.

Plagman's last day at San Quentin State Prison was Nov. 4. He is scheduled to transfer to Old Folsom State Prison.

"We are going to be sorry to lose him. He is definitely going to be an asset at Folsom," Correctional Sgt. O. Nollette said. "His move to Old Folsom is a step in the right direction."

Plagman replied, "Since arriving at the San Quentin, where I was first assigned to Badger section back in 2000, I've learned and grown so much under the watchful eyes of my mentor Sergeant Nollette."

The key to being a good officer, he said, is being able to use good communication skills rather than being confrontational.

"I am willing to talk to somebody without judging a book by the cover," Plagman said. "My word is my bond. I'm an honest person. I'm more willing to work with people and give everyone respect," he added, "There is that line where I can help people but I can't go beyond that."

"I feel like I could walk down the tier and do my job professionally," Plagman said. "That's because of the respect that goes both ways," he added, "But, I do know this is prison."

There have been times where he witnessed violence. His worst day as an officer occurred in 2005. Approximately 250 men rioted in Dining Hall Four as he looked on with his partner.

"We watched these inmates throw trays, kick other inmates, run around swinging at anything and everything that got in their way," he said. "That experience was a real eye opener. I didn't get hurt, but it was scary."

Plagman talked about better days, too.

"My most memorable experience came when I graduated from the academy," he said. "I knew this life experience would make me a better person at home for my family."

When asked about the difference between the mainline and the reception center at San Quentin, Plagman said, "I feel like on the mainline, there is progress. When I work with inmates from the mainline, they are respectful. They have goals. It's easier to do my job. It's harder to talk to young guys. They haven't learned the value



Photo by Raphaelae Casale

Correctional Officer E. Plagman in front of Tower 1

of respect yet. However, with time and education, I'm sure they will eventually mature."

Plagman said he sees the importance of offering programs to inmates or at least making them available.

*"I am willing to talk to somebody without judging a book"*

"Reception inmates aren't offered enough programs to help them get their heads straight," he said. "It would be helpful to provide books to help educate them. We shouldn't give up on them. This will make it safer for everyone involved. Rehabilitation works, that's my belief. I've seen it with my own eyes."

When asked about the Death Penalty, Plagman replied, "I believe in capital punishment. If the law states that you are convicted of a crime, my personal feelings are that the consequences are based on the crime. The law is the law."

He further elaborates: "Richard Allan Davis' crime brought the Three Strikes law, which increased the prison population. A lot of people were punished for petty crimes and given long sentences. It's my belief when someone commits a heinous crime, that individual

should pay for what he did, not the rest of the population. I believe Three Strikes works if you punish the most violent, not the drug addict who steals to support his habit. I believe balance needs to be in play."

Summing up his time at San Quentin, Plagman said, "My experience at San Quentin is a hit and a miss. I've seen good things. I've seen staff have babies, grow their families; I've seen inmates turn their life around. I've seen the other side; officers throw their careers away, and I've seen inmates continually do wrong. It's a reminder to go down the right path. Watching people change helped me change for the better."

"The one thing I can say is that I made friends, and I appreciate the people around me with integrity. I also appreciate the people who had experience and were able to give me advice, like Sergeant Nollette, who guided me through my roughest patches. I really appreciate the fact that there were times when I was able to help him through his hard times."

"I am excited to work in another historic prison to further my adventure and knowledge in this career quest," said Plagman. "It's important that I take these experiences learned here and trade them with other staff members and inmates."

Rahsaan Thomas contributed to this story



# New Bill Tackles ‘Grotesquely Long Sentences’

**By Tommy Bryant**  
**Journalism Guild Writer**

Congress is working on what supporters call a long-overdue reform bill for federal prison sentencing.

“Federal prisons are filled beyond capacity with people serving grotesquely long sentences,” Antonio Ginatta, US advocacy director for Human Rights Watch, said in a news release.

To counter effects of the

“tough on crime” era that began back in the 1980s, the Safe, Accountable, Fair, Effective Justice Act (SAFE) has been introduced by Reps. Jim Sensenbrenner and Bobby Scott.

The bill focuses on pretrial, over-criminalization, post-confinement probation, mandatory minimum sentencing, reform of sentencing statutes, and retroactive application of sentence reductions.

One example of the legislation

would be to prevent sentencing enhancements that can turn 10-year sentences into life sentences for prior drug crimes.

SAFE was introduced on June 25, 2015. The Human Rights Watch report states it would eliminate disproportionately long and unfair sentences being threatened by prosecutors.

It would also make changes in the underused “compassionate release program” for “extraordinary and compelling” cir-

cumstances, says Human Rights Watch.

Prisoners could petition a court directly for a compassionate release, including release because of the death or incapacitation of their child’s primary caregiver. Currently the U.S. Bureau of Prisons must approve such releases.

The SAFE Justice Act would also require federal correctional staff to attend training seminars. Procedures would be required

on how to use force, de-escalation techniques, detection of and response to prisoners with mental disabilities.

Reform legislation has also been introduced in the U.S. Senate, the report noted.

“Congress should pass the SAFE Justice Act as well as additional reforms to bring federal sentencing in line with principles of proportionality, fairness, and respect for human dignity,” Human Rights Watch said.

## 3-Strikes Reform Measure Moves Forward

**By Juan Haines**  
**Managing Editor**

The November 2016 ballot could have a measure allowing California voters to reform, once again, the 1994 Three Strikes Law.

Twice before, in 2012 and 2014, Californians changed the Three Strikes Law, allowing non-violent offenders to be re-sentenced, after a court found they were not a danger to public safety.

The latest proposed reform would require re-sentencing

of those individuals currently serving a Three Strikes sentence whose prior convictions were committed before March 7, 1994. Upwards of 9,000 three-strike prisoners might be affected by this change. It would also affect two-strike prisoners, numbering in tens of thousands. If the measure passes, it would be retroactively applied to all strikers.

The Act was drafted to address the following issues:

- Prevention and protection efforts concerning public safety.
- Save hundreds of millions of

taxpayers’ dollars every year as the state will no longer finance long-term health care and housing of aging low-risk offenders in state prison.

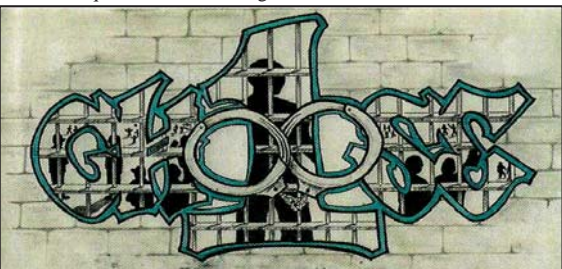
- Re-invest annual savings into high poverty middle schools and high schools, universities, community colleges and prison rehabilitation programs.
- The reinvestment savings would be distributed as follows:
  - Twenty-five percent to the high poverty middle schools and high schools in California
  - Twenty-five percent to the California Community Colleges to offset tuition
  - Twenty-five percent to the Universities of California to offset tuition
  - Twenty-five percent to prison rehabilitation programs

The proposed Three Strikes Reform Act of 2016 would “ensure that sentences for people convicted of violent crimes such as murder, rape and child molestation are not

changed.”

Proponents of the measure must get 365,880 signatures of

registered voters by March 14 to qualify for the November 2016 ballot.



## Mothers Loiter Together To Curb Chicago Violence

A group of concerned mothers from the South Side of Chicago is fighting against bloodshed and murder through peaceful loitering.

The group of parents formed a coalition against violence called Mothers Against Senseless Killings (MASK).

“As a mother, you will do whatever you can to protect your kids, even if that means sitting out on the corner for the entire summer,” says MASK founder Tamar Manasseh, 37, a rabbinical student raised in Englewood who has a 16-year-old daughter and a 19-year-old son.

MASK is a response to a shooting that killed one woman and injured two others on 75<sup>th</sup> and Steward on the South Side of Chicago. Members “planted folding chairs on the southeast corner of the intersection and spent the afternoon chatting with passerbyers and dispensing hugs. The next day, they were there again. They plan to return...until the public school year resumes.” So far, no shootings, *In These Times* reported.

Some neighbors questioned the effectiveness of the group’s effort to prevent violence, but membership has doubled from 10 to 20.

Preventative community programs can reduce crime rates, according to Nicole Porter of Washington, D.C.-based prison reform group The Sentencing Project.

long to live...You want to find a job? We’re gonna go look for a job. You want to get something off your record? Let’s find a way. That’s a mother’s job – we’re unpaid social workers.”

—John Lam

creased 22 percent from 170,283 on Dec. 31, 2008, to 132,768 on Dec. 31, 2012,” stated the report.

Realignment did not result in any early release of prisoners, the report added.

There was a general decrease in adult bookings in county jails since 2008, and the number of inmates who need “protective custody increased dramatically over the past five years, from 108 in 2008 to 275 in 2012. In addition, those placed in administrative segregation increased from 428 to 727” in the same period, the report stated.

The majority of realigned offenders under supervision at the county level are mostly for property crimes at 40 percent and drug/alcohol offenses at 54 percent, the study states.



**AB 109**

“Prior to the implementation of AB 109, individuals could only be held in local detention facilities (or jails) pre-sentence...and post-sentence if convicted and sentenced for 12 months or less for misdemeanor or granted felony probation and ordered to serve up to 12 months of custody as a condition of that probation,” the report noted.

The Realignment legislation provided more than 500 felony offenses that may be served in local county jails. The longest full sentence being served at the time of the report was 16 years.

“As a result of Realignment, the number of total individuals in state institutional custody de-

creased 22 percent from 170,283 on Dec. 31, 2008, to 132,768 on Dec. 31, 2012,” stated the report.

Realignment did not result in any early release of prisoners, the report added.

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**SERVICES**

Inmates who are housed in San Diego County jails may have access to mental health services and reentry services that include substance abuse treatment, vocational training and education.

The annual fiscal year budget for detention services in San Diego is over \$226 million, and the average cost for housing an inmate per day is \$136.48, the report states.

San Diego is building a 1,216-bed facility slated for completion in 2016 that will house women, along with plans to take back control over a private vendor-run facility, which will add an additional 200 beds when the contract expires with the vendor in December 2015.



# Reaching Beyond the Future and Walls of San Quentin

## EDITORIAL

By Arnulfo T. Garcia  
Editor-in-Chief

As we reflect upon a year's worth of hard work, the writers of *San Quentin News* renew their commitment to the state's prison population. We recognize that finding a solution to California's reliance on mass incarceration is a mission that both our staff and readers must take seriously. The vision of the *San Quentin News* is to lead the way toward a better future for California's criminal justice system.

Warden Clinton Duffy created *San Quentin News* in the 1940s to dispel prison gossip about prison policy. This gossip led to conflict among prisoners and the administration, as inmates were misinformed about policies that impacted their lives. He believed that an inmate-run newspaper would give incarcerated individuals a way to spread accurate information.

Since its inception, the newspaper has been shut down several times and for various reasons. But in 2008, Warden Robert Ayers, Jr. brought the paper back in order to disseminate positive information to the inmate population at San Quentin.

*San Quentin News* is the only prisoner published newspaper recognized by the Society of Professional Journalists, and

it received the Freedom of Information Award in 2014. The newspaper is distributed to 22 other prisons, making it the farthest-reaching inmate produced media source for the inmate population in the state.

*San Quentin News* has informed inmates across the state of California about the types of rehabilitative and professional programs available at San Quentin. As a result, there is growing demand on part of our readership that other institutions implement similar programs.

Today, *San Quentin News* has exceeded the expectations of Wardens Duffy and Ayers.

*San Quentin News* was introduced to the Obama administration at a reception celebrating public service in October. Thanks to our adviser UC Berkeley Journalism Professor William Drummond, *San Quentin News* has achieved significant attention among policymakers in Washington D.C.

We now have 14 staffers working daily for the newspaper and a growing class of journalism guild writers ready to contribute to our continued success. As our slogan goes, we are moving forward.

Our staff of creative and intelligent writers are reporting on incarceration, rehabilitation and reentry through the lens of their own prison experience. We bring a unique perspective to the coverage of criminal justice policy that is unmatched

by any other news agency. Our coverage includes, but is not limited to, politics, arts culture, journalism, and social justice.

The past four years that I have served as editor-in-chief of *San Quentin News* have been incredibly formative. This duty is enough to keep me pushing forward in my personal endeavors.

I came to prison as a heroin addict. I have made the choice to change my ways and give back to our community. I have learned so much from being a voice for the voiceless.

It has also been a challenge. We must consistently strive to do better. On occasion, I'll receive a letter from an inmate who feels we don't do enough, and as a result of that input I look for ways to improve.

We will continue to shape the discussion and perception about those who are incarcerated. We must remove the stigma that comes with being a convicted felon. Society should no longer associate the label "convicted felon" with failure, and must recognize the value of second chances. *San Quentin News* staffers know it will take an enormous amount of patience, diplomacy and perseverance to meet these objectives. But, we also know that it is within our ability to take significant strides to do so.

Over the past year, *San Quentin News* has reached several of its milestones. However, there's



Photo by Lt. S. Robinson

Grant Gutierrez, Rhona Bitner, San Quentin News staff  
CDCR PIO Krissi Khokhobashvili and Associate  
Governmental Program Analyst Michelle Mraule

much more to accomplish in the coming year.

A major challenge to our ability to circulate the newspaper across the nation and around the world is our lack of adequate funds. We continue to receive donations on a monthly basis, but are in pursuit of alternative sources of financial support.

Recently, a major foundation has granted *San Quentin News* \$50,000; money that will be used to produce a quality monthly publication with relevant and insightful stories affecting every prisoner in the state of California.

Soon *San Quentin News* will be embarking on a new project to publish a quarterly 24-page *San Quentin Magazine*. It is my intention to have the first publication ready for distribution by March 2016.

In its preliminary stages, the

magazine will be distributed to a limited number of California prison libraries. However, by 2017, we hope to increase the number to more libraries.

It is our ultimate goal to make the newspaper accessible to every prisoner in the state of California.

We would like to give special thanks to Mr. Paul Cobb, publisher of the *Post News Group* for helping *San Quentin News* Staff become members of the Society of Professional Journalists.

Finally, I want to thank all of our journalist advisers who have worked tirelessly to improve our journalism skills. Without them, we would not be where we are today.

Happy holidays to all the incarcerated and to our financial supporters. May the new year bring you a new beginning.

## SQ News Adviser Returns to White House to Receive Award

Continued from Page 1

the investment made in each person chosen to be a Fellow."

Drummond said he had hoped that his fellowship from 1976 to 1977 would give him an understanding of the inner workings of government so he could go back to his community to better serve the people.

"In my 50 years in journalism I have written thousands of stories. I am at a loss to remember any story I ever did that made anybody better off," Drummond said in his acceptance speech to more than 600 former White House Fellows and other dignitaries. "But in the work I've been doing at San Quentin since 2012, I can see the changes for the better."

The White House Fellows program was created in 1964 by President Lyndon B. Johnson with the belief that a genuinely free society cannot be a spectator society. Each year a presidential commission selects a handful of young men and women to come to Washington and work in government. The program teaches participants about leadership as they see the nation's leaders at work and meet with leaders from other sectors of society.

Drummond was assigned to the White House Press Office in 1976 and worked as associate press secretary to President Jimmy Carter. His main assignment was liaison with the Washington Press Corps. He says the experience was an eye-opener because he got to experience the press as someone who was not a reporter, because he was on a leave-



File Photo

Professor W. J.  
Drummond holding up a  
*San Quentin News*

of-absence from his reporting position at the *Los Angeles Times*.

"I had to deal with a lot of former colleagues who were more interested in 'gotcha moments' and sound bites," Drummond said. "That experience took journalism off the pedestal. Up until then, I thought journalism was the answer to big government. Instead, I saw it was big media companies that had a lot of influence over government."

Drummond said he was asked to stay on after his fellowship, but he decided not to. After his fellowship, he went back to the Washington bureau of the *Los Angeles Times* and eventually moved to NPR in 1979.

He began teaching at the UC Berkeley Journalism School in 1983.

In 2012, Drummond volun-

teered to teach a college course in basic journalism at San Quentin. Several writers for the *San Quentin News* enrolled and showed Drummond a copy of the newspaper. Subsequently, the inmates invited Drummond to the newsroom, introduced him to its staff and operations and soon after asked him to join the newspaper's team of journalist advisers. Without hesitation, Drummond accepted.

Since then, Drummond has established a relationship of friendship and mutual respect with the staff. Three times a week, Drummond, along with a few of his Berkeley students, make their way across the bridge to the prison to help the inmates research and write their stories for the *San Quentin News*, one of the few remaining prison newspapers in the country. Drummond often says he knows more people on the Lower Yard of San Quentin Prison than he does on the vast UC Berkeley campus.

Participating students note how significant this experience is to their understanding of the purpose of journalism and service.

"I feel that journalism is very important just by bringing an issue to the public's attention," said UC Berkeley student Knowles Adkisson. "There's something powerful in that you can change people's circumstances in a positive way."

Charlotte Jacquemart, a visiting scholar from Switzerland in residence now at UC Berkeley, has found significant variations between the American criminal justice system and that of her own country.



John W. Gardner Legacy  
of Leadership Award

"The work with the inmates at San Quentin opened my eyes about how much the U.S. justice system is screwed up and how racist it is on top. In my country, we focus on rehabilitation and try to integrate wrong-doers back into society as soon as possible," Jacquemart said.

Drummond feels that bringing UC Berkeley undergraduate and graduate journalism students provides them with a rare opportunity to learn.

"Having my UC Berkeley students visiting and working with prison journalists, I have seen stereotypes break down and young reporters gain confidence in their abilities to relate to people from entirely different circumstances and backgrounds," he said in his Washington acceptance speech.

Before going to the White House, Drummond gave *San Quentin News* staffers the opportunity to write a short memo about their incarceration, which he incorporated into the acceptance speech.

*San Quentin News* Design

Editor Richard "Bonaru" Richardson wrote: "As an African-American, equality doesn't exist because I've never experienced it. But I do know forgiveness because that's all I have."

Staff Writer, Columnist and Spanish Translator Miguel Quezada said: "At 16 I was tried, convicted and subsequently sentenced as an adult. I grew up in the adult prison system. My question: When do children stop being children in America?"

Drummond's acceptance speech was a hit among the audience at the White House.

"As I left the hall, many people approached me and said it was moving and the best thing on the lengthy program," Drummond said. "One death penalty lawyer said she wept."

A program officer from a big national foundation approached Drummond and asked him if the paper needed funding. He explained to the program officer how vulnerable the paper is to state budget cuts. However, Drummond felt that his visit to the White House was significant for purposes other than catching the attention of potential funders.

"The reason San Quentin inmates should care about the newspaper being recognized at the White House is that the people whom I met and talked to have zero understanding or appreciation of incarceration or its consequences," Drummond said. "What I was able to do is bring authentic voices to them. The people who read the newspaper said its contents were a revelation to them."

—Juan Haines



# TEDx Is Coming to San Quentin

By **Rahsaan Thomas**  
Staff Writer

Delia Cohen is setting the stage for a TEDx Talk conference inside State Quentin State Prison in January 2016.

Scheduled speakers include: Curtis "Wall Street" Carroll, former combat veteran Ron Self, Warden Ron Davis, and outside guest former Secretary of the U.S. Treasury Robert E. Rubin and California Inspector General Robert A. Barton.

"This is a place where TED could help. It's an invisible population represented by false TV shows," said Cohen, a former Clinton administration White House staffer and the event's sponsor. "I think it is important to get outside people in so they can meet the men and be moved like I was."

Cohen was clueless as to what an inmate population was like, until attending a TEDx event at an Ohio prison.

"I thought inmates were a

waste of time," said Cohen. "I was so wrong. It blew my head wide open to see we are all human. Now lifers are my favorite incarcerated people."

She's been trying to replicate that TEDx experience ever since.

"I'm using my connections on a mission to bring as many people in here as I can," said Cohen.

The original TED talks began in Southern California as an annual conference of "big idea" speeches. Social justice attorney Bryant Stevenson gave one about mass incarceration. Jessica Munoz, a founder of the non-profit organization Hoola Na Pua which means "New Life for Our Children," spoke out against sex trafficking. There have been TED talks about everything from a better way to tie your shoes to respecting the tenacity of a "rose (person) who grew through concrete (hardships)."

TED licenses people to use their principles in TEDx events.

If a TEDx talk resonates, it will be placed on the main TED website, which receives millions of views. No incarcerated male speaker has made the main site.

The theme for the San Quentin TEDx event is Life Revealed. Carroll will give one of his famous talks about the importance of financial literacy. The *Wall Street Journal* has called him the Oracle of San Quentin for his stock-picking ability.

Incarcerated combat veteran Self plans to talk about a solution to stop the alarming rate of veterans committing suicide.

"Six thousand eight hundred thirty-one, that's the number of Americans killed in Iraq and Afghanistan...73,000 plus, that's how many have committed suicide in the same 14-year period."

Barton has spoken on hope in redemption in the past.

Rubin is the author of *The New York Times* bestseller *In an Uncertain World: Tough Choices from Wall Street to Washington*.



Rubin has given a TED talk on the moral duty to end poverty.

Members of SQPR have been trying to organize a TEDx inside San Quentin since 2012. After many trials, tribulations and a change in sponsors, the date is set for Jan. 22.

"This is the furthest we have

gotten," said inside organizer Brian Asey. "I had an opportunity to talk to Robert Rubin and that was big."

"I think they are going to be impressed by the pure creativity that people in prison have to offer," said Shaded Wallace-Stepter.

## Jazz Fest, a Melting Pot of Musical Flavors

By **Marcus Henderson**  
Journalism Guild Writer

The San Quentin Gumbo Classic Jazz Fest on Oct. 17 served up spicy tunes and a mixture of musical flavors.

The group *We Just Came to Play* headlined the show. It consists of lead guitarist Greg Dixon, drummer Dwight Krizman, bass Darryl Farris, Howard Milton on congas and volunteer Denali Gillaspie on keyboard.

They performed eight original jazz pieces composed by Dixon with three spoken-word poems featuring Chris Marshall.

The crowd swayed when they played a saucy Latin tempo song called "Geniene."

"That's my wife's name," said Dixon. "No matter what, she's still got my heart."

The band hypnotized the crowd with songs like "Outer Drive" and "Plaza Lafayette," which are based on two places in Detroit that are special to Dixon.

"I want to thank everyone who participated in the 2015 yard shows for all the hard work and dedication the bands showed in all their rehearsals during the year," said sponsor Raphael Casale. "I also want to give a shout-out of thanks to *San Quentin News* for highlighting the music shows in the newspaper. Music is a positive, uplifting event on the yard and we look forward to 2016 with more fresh ideas from solo artists and bands alike!"

Gillaspie added, "These are some of the most talented people I ever played with. Music helps you heal your soul and work out your differences. I come here and get healed off of everybody's positivity."

The day kicked off with three Hip-Hop acts. Arthur "A.R.-Da-Superstarr" Snowden played guitar on Emil "Tears" Acolatse's "Product of the Universe" and "My Grind," moving the crowd with his lyrical prowess.

"Just four months ago I was reading how to play guitar. Now I'm performing in front of a



Photo by Raphael Casale

*We Just Came to Play* performing live and Denali Gillaspie on keyboard

large crowd. The cheers made me want to perfect my craft," said Snowden.

George "Mesro" Coles-El and Harun "Jeddi" Taylor kept the party rocking with "I'm the One to Call," an inspirational free-style.

"As a West Coast veteran Hip-Hop artist, I feel good passing the baton to a person like 'Tears' (Acolatse). I'm retiring with a smile. That was my last public Rap performance," said Taylor.

J. "Killa Clown" gave some food for thought with his anti-drug song about his struggles with Meth, titled "Can't Escape the Bubble." His rap reflected, "I thought I used it, but it used me."

The *New Syndicate of Funk* lead singer Rico Roger, soulful voice-over Matthew Jaspas (last) guitar riffs and Charles King drums bought the crowd to its feet, singing along to the '70s and '80s covers.

They added a personal touch with an original called "I Can't Stand It." They blended the old with the new, when Parrish Foster Rapped over an Isley Brothers

classic "Foot Steps in the Dark" titled "Top Notch."

"It's amazing how you can form an opinion about somebody, then see them on stage and they have all that talent. It truly shows you can't judge a book by its cover," said Eric Deric.

Allen "Squirrel" Ware showed why he is a professional on the keyboard when he performed "Little Sunflower" by Freddie Hubbard and "Chameleon" by Herbie Hancock.

The gospel group Unique Echoes members Foster and Terry "Madea" Farr gave an uplifting rendition called "We Win the War Against Evil."

The icing on the cake came from Rapper "Maverick" Harrison, letting the crowd into his life with "Don't Cry for Me," a song about choices that led him to prison, and "Hope You're Proud of Me" about his transformation.

Jose Ortega represented the Spanish speaking community with "Vida Dura" (Live Heart) about how Jesus Christ changed his life in the midst of his hardships.



Photo by Raphael Casale

Drummer Dwight Krizman and Chris Marshall



Photo by Raphael Casale

Arthur "A.R.-Da-Superstarr" Snowden played guitar and Emil "Tears" Acolatse on vocals



# ‘Es Tiempo de Cerrar Estas Carceles’

## ‘Un niño menor de 5 años vino hacia mi y me abrazo la pierna... y me pregunto, ‘esta usted aquí para sacarnos de la cárcel?’”

Por Wesley R. Eisiminger  
Editor de Equipo de Trabajo

Un congresista al visitar una prisión de inmigración, mencio- no que la encontró en pésimas condiciones e hizo un llamado

para que se efectúen grandes cambios de como América debe tratar a los indocumentados. “Es tiempo de cerrar estas prisiones y ofrecer un trato digno a las vidas de mujeres y niños quienes vienen en busca

de la humanidad de la cual carecen en su país,” el represent- ante Raul M. Grijalva escribió en un artículo para el periódico *The Guardian*. “Personalmente fui a mirar la clase de condiciones que enfren-

tan las mujeres y niños encarce- lados y me partió el corazón,” menciona Grijalva, D-Arizona. En compañía de una delegación del congreso Grijalva visito el South Texas Family Residencial Center en Dilley, Texas.

Acaso es justo detener en pri- siones a mujeres y niños que arriesgan sus vidas al huir de la violencia y pobreza solo para obtener ganancias, Grijalva pre- gunto. “Proclamamos al mundo que aquellos que enfrentan ver- daderos peligros en su patria, podrán encontrar refugio en América”.

Grijalva escribió, “Pequeñas casas de un piso albergan a var- ias familias por cuarto, compari- tiendo una bañera sin ninguna privacidad.” Carecen de cuida- do medico. “Algunos niños de 7 a 8 años se ven con la necesidad de usar pañales como resultado de su cautiverio”.

“La Inmigración y la Aduana (ICE) pagan por día por cada detenido \$325.69 a la Correc- tions Corporation of America,” el congresista reporto.

“En los últimos 11 años, 32 personas han muerto en el ‘cuidado’ de Corrections Cor- poration of America’s Facili- ties. Siete fueron suicidios, y el resto fue ocasionado por la falta

de atención medica”. Grijalva agrego.

“Llegan aquí solamente bus- cando refugio, huyendo de las terribles condiciones. Buscan a los agentes de la patrulla fron- teriza – caminan hacia ellos para pedir ayuda,” Grijalva es- cribió.

Hasta que no hayan obtenido una audiencia legal, las perso- nas buscando asilo político se les permite vivir en los Estados Unidos; “Se supone que no de- beríamos mantenerlos detenidos en facilidades de prisión bajo ningún motivo,” Grijalva dijo.

“Para arreglar esto, debemos remover las ganancias que pro- vee la encarcelación en nuestra sociedad. Para la Corrections Corporation of America, es- tas personas no son percibidas como individuos buscando asi- lo, sino son consideradas liter- almente el objetivo primordial de la compañía por las gana- ncias que obtienen. Menciono el reporte.

Grijalva menciono mientras se disponía a retirarse, “Un niño menor de 5 años vino ha- cia mi y me abrazo la pierna... y me pregunto, ‘esta usted aquí para sacarnos de la cárcel?’”

-Traducción por  
Miguel Quezada

Por Thompson-Bonilla  
Escritor del Gremio  
Periodístico

Niños inmigrantes acompa- ñados de sus madres al cruzar la frontera de México-Estados Unidos son detenidos en faci- lidades privadas sin licencia, violando un acuerdo impuesto por las cortes federales hace 18 años. Reporto *The Associated Press*.

La Juez Dolly Gee del U.S. District, emitió una resolución manteniendo un acuerdo provi- sional que Gee hizo en Abril. El acuerdo fue una victoria para los abogados que pelean por los derechos de los inmi- grantes, quienes fueron los que presentaron la demanda. La Juez Gee solicito al departa- miento Homeland Security y a los abogados de inmigración a llegar a un acuerdo. Sin em- bargo, después de dos semanas de negociaciones, ambas partes no llegaron a una solución.

Una resolución en 1997 pro- hibió que niños inmigrantes fueran detenidos en facilidades

sin licencia. Gee encontró que Oficiales Federales estaban vi- olando el acuerdo, refiriéndose a que todos los niños en cus- todia de Oficiales Federales de inmigración no deben ser de- tenidos en tales instituciones, ni siquiera al estar acompaña- dos por sus padres.

“Oficiales Federales sa- ben que están quebrantando el acuerdo. Detienen a niños en facilidades no seguras; Así de sencillo,” menciona Meter Schey, Director Ejecutivo de Derechos Humanos. Schey es uno de los abogados que pre- sento la demanda.

Los nuevos centros con- struidos en Texas para mu- jeres y niños dio lugar a una nueva demanda. A pesar de ser supervisados por el gobi- erno federal, las instituciones son administradas por opera- dores de prisiones privadas. Un reporte reciente de la A.P. menciona que 2000 mujeres y niños fueron detenidos a con- secuencia de una oleada de de- cenas de miles de inmigrantes procedentes de Centro Améri-

ca que entran a los Estados Unidos.

El gobierno argumento que es necesario modificar el acue- rdo, debido al gran numero de inmigrantes que atraviesan los centros de detención de la frontera, los cuales son usa- dos como medio disuasivo. Se menciona también que el método de detención era una manera de mantener las fami- lias juntas mientras sus casos de inmigración eran examina- dos.

Gee ordeno al gobierno que mostrara una razón del por que ella no debería someter una orden que tendría como resul- tado el cumplimiento del gobi- erno dentro del periodo de tres meses.

Debido al arreglo provision- al en Abril, la inmigración y la aduana declararon que mejo- rarían sus facilidades, de acue- rdo a las necesidades de los niños y ofreciendo una mejor supervisión, informo la A.P.

-Traducción por  
Marco Villa

# Historia, Cultura, Y Tradición Latina: Posadas Mexicanas

Por Tare Beltranchuc y  
Marco Villa

Las posadas es la celebración más esperada y celebrada en México; con un festejo de nueve días en víspera de la Navidad. A pesar de que las posadas son originarias de Es- paña con raíces católicas, ac- tualmente la celebran en gran parte de México, tanto católi- cos como protestantes latinos por igual.

Las posadas comienzan el 16 de Diciembre y terminan el 24 del mismo mes. Las posa- das conmemoran la interpre- tación de la trayectoria de José y Maria buscando refugio antes del nacimiento del niño Dios. Los nueve días de celebración representan los nueve meses de embarazo en los que Maria llevo en el vientre a Jesús.

Los mexicanos comienzan esta típica tradición con una procesión dirigida por indi- viduos representando a Maria y José, con la futura madre montada en un verdadero bur- rito, seguido por una multitud de gente vestida de ángeles y pastores que van agregándose en el recorrido. Al acercarse la multitud a la casa designada a la primera posada, la gente comienza a cantar villancicos

llevando cada quien una vela encendida.

Al llegar a la casa todos can- tan la antigua canción tradicio- nal “os pido posada”. Durante la interpretación los anfitriones de la posada actúan como los dueños de la casa mientras que los invitados actúan como los peregrinos. Tanto los anfitriones dentro de la casa como los invitados afuera cantan alter- nadamente versos de las can- ciones tradicionales. Los que se encuentran dentro de la casa les niegan albergue a los que piden posada, mas los peregrinos siguen insistiendo. Cuando los dueños de la casa salen decididos a correr definitivamente a la gente, reconocen de inmedia- to quienes son los peregrinos y cambiando de parecer les abren las puertas de su casa dándoles la bienvenida felizmente. Se- guidamente, adultos y niños se preparan para romper la tradi- cional piñata.

Las piñatas en forma de es- trella con siete picos forman parte muy importante en la celebración. Los siete picos representan los siete pecados capitales que deben ser destru- idos por el “pecador” (un niño a quien le vendan de los ojos simbolizando la fe siega). Uno por uno los niños son vendados

de los ojos y mareados al dar- les varias vueltas, después los guían hasta la piñata. Mien- tras los niños se turnan para pegarle a la piñata, los demás cantan una canción tradicional “Dale, dale, dale no pierdas el tino”. La piñata llena de dul- ces es suspendida por una cuer- da de algún árbol o techo. Usualmente se necesita darle muchos golpes a la piñata para romperla. Cuando finalmente se rompe la piñata, todos los niños se alegran y corren a recoger los dulces. El niño que llega a romper la piñata es con- siderado un héroe porque es el que provee las “bendiciones” para todos (dulces).

Los platillos y las bebidas autenticas de México, junto con el festejo familiar son parte de las posadas. Aunque cier- tas comidas varían de región a región, los platillos tradiciona- les mas comunes son: Tama- les, chiles rellenos y menudo. En cuanto a las bebidas son: El atole, ponche con piquete y la cerveza Mexicana “Noche Buena” (disponible solo en los días festivos a la Navidad).

Así que en esta Navidad cel- ebra en grande con la familia y amigos sin que falte el brin- dis con ponche y una cerveza “Noche Buena” bien fría.

# Seres Humanos Se Convierten En Cuotas

Por Salvador Solorio  
Escritor del Gremio  
Periodístico

La directiva del congreso conocida como “La orden de camas” requiere que la U.S. Immigration Customs En- forcement (ICE) mantenga un promedio de 34,000 detenidos por día en su custodia, reporta el Washington Post.

“Los gastos federales para la detención y deportación ha incrementado a \$2.8 billones por año”

Oficiales de Homeland Se- curity han encarcelado a un numero record de inmigran- tes durante los pasados cinco años, de acuerdo a un repor- taje del mes de Octubre en el periódico Post. La cuota ha au- mentado desde que fue estab- lecida en el año 2006 por legis- ladores conservativos quienes insistían que la agencia no es- taba haciendo el esfuerzo sufi- ciente para deportar inmigran- tes ilegales, reporto el Post.

Aunque la inmigración il- gal ha recaído a sus niveles mas bajos desde 1970, el ICE ha ido cumpliendo con sus metas al extraditar a los resi- dentes legales nacidos en el

extranjero que han sido culpa- bles de crímenes que los hace elegibles para ser deportados, dice el reporte.

Oficiales de Homeland Se- curity argumentan que no es- tán encarcelando a inmigran- tes ilegales simplemente para cumplir la cuota o porque son amplios candidatos a deporta- ción, sino que se enfocan en criminales que representan una amenaza para la sociedad

Los críticos del mandato han señalado que la mayoría de los detenidos no son crimina- les violentos. Jueces de inmi- gración permiten que muchos permanezcan en los U.S. sin embargo, muchos detenidos pasan meses bajo una custodia federal costosa, aun cuando alternativas mas baratas están disponibles, tal como braza- letes de tobillo.

Los gastos federales para la detención y deportación ha in- crementado a \$2.8 billones por año, lo cual duplica la cantidad del 2006, afirmo el artículo del periódico.

El Homeland Security en- fatizo al Congreso durante el debate de “Restricciones Pre- supuestarias” que la agencia podría ahorrar dinero si redu- cen la orden de camas a una cantidad de 31,800. Sin em- bargo La Cámara de Republi- canos rebatió exitosamente la orden de camas y fijo dicha orden a 34,000 detenidos, así mismo ordeno a oficiales del ICE a destinar alrededor de \$400 millones mas de lo solici- tado, argumento el reporte.

-Traducción por  
Miguel Quezada



# Local Police Departments Want More Minorities

By Charles David Henry  
Journalism Guild Writer

Minorities remain largely underrepresented in many local police departments despite efforts to improve their diversity programs, a federal report says.

The report published by the Bureau of Justice Statistics says this is particularly true in jurisdictions where there are racial tensions within communities experiencing rapid demographics shifts.

“Racial and ethnic minorities were underrepresented by a combined 24 percentage points on average when shares of police officers were compared to census population estimates for each of the 269 jurisdictions reviewed,” the 2015 report said.

This disproportion was greatest among Hispanics. Their numbers are nearly 11 percentage points below the census population estimates.

Blacks and Asians, two smaller minority groups, also remain underrepresented, the report adds.

“In 35 of the 85 jurisdiction where either Blacks, Asians or Hispanics make up the single largest racial or ethnic group, their individual presence in police departments was less than half their share of the population. Asians were most underrepresented, averaging 33 percentage points below Census population estimates in the seven jurisdictions where they accounted for the single largest demographic,” it was reported.

According to the report, “about 27 percent of officers in all local police departments in 2013 were racial or ethnic minorities.” In 1990 the number was only 17 percent. Despite these increases, the report said, diversity efforts still haven’t kept pace with the country’s shifting demographics. “In fact, total minority

representation in local law enforcement agencies trails the U.S. population more so now than two decades ago.”

The report shows there are a variety of reasons why police departments have failed to recruit minorities. Some of these agencies have been accused of “unfair hiring practices over the years.” Departments with low turnover are slow in keeping pace with these changes. California law enforcement agencies have been slow in hiring minorities (minus 32 percentage points) among those departments re-

viewed.

Smaller jurisdictions with fewer officers tend to show slightly greater levels of minority under-representation as well. In the city of Simi Valley minorities represent only 12.3 percent of the total population. However, Hispanics represent roughly 6.6 percent, Blacks 1.6 percent and Asians represent 4.1 percent of that police department’s minority staff, the report adds.

Minorities make up 64.6 percent of the Los Angeles Police Department. The police department comprises

43.4 percent Hispanics, 11.6 percent Blacks and 7.1 percent Asians. Accordingly, this is one of the agencies in the report that stepped up its recruitment of candidates after the White House Task Force made several recommendations regarding this issue.

In the report, police diversity is perceived to be a problem mostly in poor and low-income communities; however, more affluent areas with poverty rates below the national average have levels of under representation roughly equal to the poorest jurisdictions.

## Report: Jail is Gateway To Rising Problems and Criminal Justice System

By Juan Haines  
Managing Editor

Winding up in jail, even for a minor infraction, increases the chance of getting sentenced to incarceration, loss of income, getting out and returning to crime, and worsened health, a *Vera Institute of Justice* report finds.

Jail is a gateway to “deeper and more lasting involvement in the criminal justice system,” according to the report, *Incarceration’s Front Door: The Misuse of Jails in America*, February 2015. The report concludes jail also exacerbates problems for the mentally ill.

of the rest of the jail population. Nearly a third of jail inmates with mental illness were unemployed in the month before arrest, compared to less than a quarter of the rest of the population.

**“Fifteen percent of jail inmates with mental illness were using drugs and alcohol”**

Thirty-four percent of jail inmates with mental illness were drug users at the time of arrest compared to 20 percent of the rest of the jail population.

Fifteen percent of jail inmates with mental illness were using drugs and alcohol at the time of arrest, compared to seven percent of the rest of the jail population.

The *Vera* report cited the “constant noise, bright lights, an ever-changing population, and an atmosphere of threat and violence...coupled with the near-absence of mental health treatment” to show that jails are damaging to people with mental illnesses.

According to the latest data available to *Vera*, 83 percent of jail inmates with mental illness did not receive mental health care after admission.

*Vera* reports that most people with serious mental illnesses enter jail with minor, nonviolent crimes, yet they end up staying in jail for longer periods of time than offenders without mental illnesses.

Breakdowns in “care is likely a large part of the reason why people with mental illness tend to cycle in and out of jail,” according to *Vera*.

By Thomas Gardner  
Journalism Guild Writer

Black youths are more likely than White youths to be tried and sentenced as adults, suggesting they are often seen as older and less innocent than White children of the same age, according to a recent university study.

The Black children make up 58 percent of all children sentenced to adult facilities and are 18 times more likely than White children to be sentenced as adults, the research team reports.

The study titled “The Essence of Innocence: Consequences of Dehumanizing Black Children” was published in February 2014 in the *Journal of Personality and Social Psychology*.

The researchers explore the idea that traditional prejudice may have different implications from that of “dehumanization,” which they define as the “denial of full humanness to others.”

“This conception of preju-

dice and dehumanization would predict that, whereas prejudice may prompt one to devalue a job candidate from a disliked group, prejudice would not predict endorsement of genocide or extreme violence toward that individual or group. Dehumanization, on the other hand, would,” the research team notes.

**“Black children make up 58 percent of all children sentenced to adult facilities”**

Dehumanization equates to a “reduction of social considerations afforded to humans for those who are dehumanized,” and in the case of the dehumanized child, the implication is especially troubling, the report says.

“This reduction violates

one defining characteristic of children – being innocent and thus needing protection – rendering the category ‘children’ less essential and distinct from ‘adults.’ This may also cause individuals to see Black children as more like adults or, more precisely, to see them as older than they are,” the study explains.

The researchers utilized historical overview, detailing the observation that for decades, if not centuries, some individuals have associated Blacks as nonhuman animals, specifically apes.

“The logic of this assertion is that dehumanizing groups morally excludes them, making it permissible to treat people in a way that would be morally objectionable if they were fully human,” the researchers said.

The research team hypothesized that this sort of race-based perception, even when considering an adolescent, may very well explain why Black children, especially boys, receive harsher treatment in courts of law and society in general.

## 35 States Aim for Justice Policy Based on Results, Not ‘Toughness’

By Tommy Bryant  
Journalism Guild Writer

Thirty-five states are working to implement a new strategy called Justice Reinvestment expected to reduce crime and incarceration and save money.

“This is a new way of doing business,” explained Adam Gelb of the Pew Charitable Trust’s Public Safety Performance Project.

**STRATEGY**

The strategy was the focus of a 35-state conference in San Diego in November 2014.

“In the view of Gelb and many at the San Diego summit, the challenge now is to make criminal justice policy based on reliable data on what works to prevent crime, not on ideology – such as a belief that longer prison terms solves the problem,” wrote Ted Gest, president of Criminal Justice Journalists and Washington

bureau chief of *The Crime Report*.

Gest reported the U.S. Justice Department invested \$27 million in Justice Reinvestment and a major concern among delegates was how to fund efforts when federal money ran out in October.

**OFFENDERS**

Low-level and historically high repeat offenders are occupying very expensive prison cells. These are primary targets for the Justice Reinvestment program.

“Stop making the justice system the default (remedy) for at-risk youth,” said one of the summit’s participants, Assistant Attorney General Karol Mason.

“Let’s not allow the pendulum to swing back,” Gelb said.

“Mason ticked off a long list of examples, such as pretrial policy changes in Delaware and Kentucky, problem-solving courts in Arkansas and

West Virginia and probation and parole improvements in Louisiana, Ohio, Oregon and South Dakota,” Gest reported.

**MEDIA**

The conference sponsors revealed successes, but Pew barred the news media from most of the workshops involving roles of prosecutors, judges and public opinion. Pew felt participants might not speak as openly on certain subjects with reporters present.

A Pew report states that prison numbers in many states will continue to rise in the coming years, due to the daunting task of reforming the current justice system.

It was a mistake for conservatives to measure the success of anticrime policies by “putting more people in prison,” said Grover Norquist, president of Americans for Tax Reform. Conservatives should have looked at outputs, not just inputs, Norquist added.



# Families and Friends Being Misled About JPay

By Kevin D. Sawyer  
Journalism Guild Chairman

Families and friends of inmates do not have to use JPay to deposit funds in California state prisoners' trust accounts, state regulations show.

However, effective since October 2014, the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation (CDCR) entered into a pilot program called Lock Box with the JPay company, according to CDCR Public Information Officer Kristina Khokhobashvili.

"The Lock Box program was started to reduce hold times on incoming inmate deposits," said Khokhobashvili. "Inmate deposits handled through Lock Box are processed within a 14-day timeframe."

Inmate deposits received through institution mailrooms can take up to 45 days to process because it includes a 30-day hold to ensure the funds clear the bank, Khokhobashvili said.

CDCR officials said prison staff takes negotiable instruments and/or coins (deposits) to the bank on a weekly basis.

However, families and friends may opt to send the funds directly to JPay where processing is faster.

JPay has multiple methods of depositing funds to an inmate's account: Online electronic funds transfer service, telephone calls to customer service and walk-in store cash payments. Each of these methods has a related fee.

The Lock Box program provided by JPay is the only service that does not charge a fee, but

that has not been widely publicized.

Adding to this confusion, San Quentin prison previously broadcast in English and Spanish a series of JPay video slides on closed-circuit television (SQTV). The videos informed inmates: "SQSP Inmate Trust Office will not accept inmate trust deposits after Jan. 31, 2015; they will be returned to sender at the expense of the receiving inmate."

Another video said, "Effective Jan. 1, 2015, all money orders and cashiers checks, must now be sent to JPay" at an address provided in Los Angeles.

And another video informed inmates that forms are available "online at [www.JPay.com](http://www.JPay.com) and in the SQSP visiting area to submit with your deposit." All videos displayed CDCR and JPay logos.

**"CDCR does not receive a share of any money routed through JPay"**

According to prison regulations, "Funds may be mailed to an inmate in the form of a money order, certified check, personal check or any other negotiable means, except cash and Travelers Check."

Many inmates have complained that their families have had their money orders returned.

An SQTV video painted a rosier picture, saying, "The hold

for money orders and cashier checks will be approximately five business days from receipt. Personal checks will be held for 10 days before deposited into the inmate's account."

The process could take longer.

In October, the CDCR Regulation and Policy Management Branch (RPMB) published a Notice of Change to Regulations (NCR, 15-09, CCR Title 15, Section 3140) which places further restrictions on money orders and certified checks.

Currently these deposits can be mailed to an inmate's trust account without the sender's name or return address on it.

"The department has made a determination to hold these funds until the sender can be identified," the NCR says. "Correspondence containing funds without a sender and return address is an administrative problem when an inmate paroled, or cannot otherwise be specifically identified because of an insufficient inmate address."

Citing the possibility of criminal and gang activity the NCR says, "Unidentified senders could be another inmate, parolee or probationer, trying to circumvent current regulations, which require a warden's permission in order to correspond with inmates inside of the CDCR system."

Meanwhile in the outside world, electronic banking has eliminated wait times for checks to clear.

According to the Check Clearing for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Act (or "Check 21") passed by Congress in 2003, the recipient of a

JPay Rates for CDCR Electronic Funds Transfer Services				
Online				
\$ 0.01	-	30.00		\$3.95
\$ 30.01	-	75.00		\$6.95
\$ 75.01	-	200.00		\$9.95
\$ 200.01	-	300.00		\$11.95
By Phone				
\$ 0.01	-	30.00		\$4.95
\$ 30.01	-	75.00		\$7.95
\$ 75.01	-	200.00		\$10.95
\$ 200.01	-	300.00		\$12.95

Note: Walk In Store Cash Payment Fee is \$5.95

paper check can create a digital version of it, an electronic "substitute check," to do away with a physical check. The act makes it legal to scan checks into computers to make remote deposits to banks.

Khokhobashvili said remote deposits made by the CDCR are not possible at all prisons, "but we are actively implementing remote deposit to go out to all institutions in the future."

"As of July 31, there are currently four institutions active with remote deposits," said Khokhobashvili. "San Quentin is scheduled to begin using remote deposits this fiscal year."

"The new service, Lock Box, has handled \$263,621 since its inception began in October 2014," until May 2015, said Khokhobashvili. "CDCR does not receive a share of any money routed through JPay."

CDCR's contract with JPay is

due to expire on June 30 in 2016.

In 2014, Ryan Shapiro, JPay's founder and CEO, said in a *CNBC* article, "Our goal is to become the nation's digital consumer app company for prisons."

Shapiro started JPay in 2002. Today it is the largest money transmitter for correctional departments in 31 states, according to the *South Florida Business Journal*.

"In 12 years, JPay says it has grown to provide money transfers to more than 1.7 million offenders in 32 states, or nearly 70 percent of the inmates in U.S. prison," the online website [publicintegrity.org](http://publicintegrity.org) reported.

According to the Center for Public Integrity, JPay handled nearly 7 million transactions in 2013, generating more than \$50 million in revenue. This year the company expects to transfer more than \$1 billion.

# James Kilgore Gives Instructions on Mass Incarceration

By Juan Haines  
Managing Editor

James Kilgore's instructional breakdown about mass incarceration in America preaches to the choir. That being said, doesn't every choir need a strong melody and a conductor who knows what he or she is doing?

*Understanding Mass Incarceration: A People's Guide to the Key Civil Rights Struggle of Our Time* (2015) is a well-orga-

nized analysis of the far-reaching aspects of U.S. criminal justice policies.

The book examines lock-up policies, root causes of mass incarceration, gender biases in laws and those who profit off prisons. It also offers solutions.

Kilgore looks at key indicators that contribute to mass in-

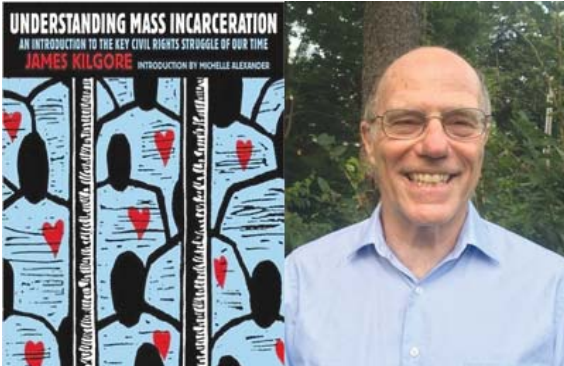
carceration such as prison and jail expansion, deportation of immigrants, punitive school discipline, harsh sentencing laws, the use of solitary confinement and juveniles sentenced to life without parole.

There is an assumption in the U.S. that it's fair to lock up criminals as long as they're given treatment and education while incarcerated. Therefore, shouldn't those leaving prisons reflect this rehabilitation policy? High recidivism rates show either this assumption is not true or that incarcerated Americans are not getting the services they need.

On the other hand, Michelle Alexander argues in her 2010 book *The New Jim Crow: Mass Incarceration in the Age of Colorblindness* that treating criminal behavior more compassionately might yield better results.

"We could seek for them the same opportunities we seek for our own children; we could treat them like one of 'us.' We could do that," Alexander writes.

Marie Gottschalk, author of *The Prison and the Gallows: The Politics of Mass Incarceration in America* (2006) said *The New Jim Crow* was one of the "most interesting original books" she'd ever read. "It thoroughly explains the consequence of today's mass incar-



James Kilgore

ceration policies and the lasting effects of being labeled a felon."

*The Prison and the Gallows* examines long-term crime rates and finds no direct relationship to incarceration rates, noting, "Deviance is not a property inherent in any particular kind of behavior, rather, deviance is a property conferred upon a certain behavior by the majority or by the powerful."

Angela Davis addresses how Americans think about prisons in her 2003 book, *Are Prisons Obsolete?* "We take prisons for granted but are often afraid to face the realities they produce," she writes.

When California courts began to investigate people in segregated housing units, "they found it wasn't inherently cruel or unusual; but it was devastating for (individuals) suffering from

mental illness to be put in solitary—they became the 'walking dead,'" author of *Mass Incarceration on Trial: A Remarkable Court Decision and The Future of Prisons in America* (2014), Jonathan Simon said in an interview with *The Crime Report*.

Kilgore prods at the ethical dilemma of hyper-lockup policies by citing a May 2014 *New York Times* editorial.

"The American experiment in mass incarceration has been a moral, legal, social and economic disaster. It cannot end soon enough," the editorial states.

The effort Kilgore puts into *Understanding Mass Incarceration* shouldn't be taken for granted. It's useful information every concerned citizen needs to have in order to talk about and understand the future of public safety in America.

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# Youth Offenders See Benefits in SQ Programs

By Miguel Quezada  
Staff Writer

## Kid CAT Speaks!

Jared Elkins was 13 years old the first time he found himself behind bars for burglary. At 14, he was placed in a group home. The 20-year-old San Quentin State Prison inmate said, “Since then I haven’t been out of prison for longer than six months.” Elkins, serving a sentence of 10 years for a gang-related firearms violation, is one of several young prisoners designated eligible to be transferred to a medium security prison like San Quentin through the Youth Offender Program (passed as Assembly Bill 1276 in 2014). The

program is designed to keep offenders under the age of 22 away from high security prisons, where opportunities for programs are few and typically more violent than lower security prisons. Elkins said that if he went to a higher level prison, he felt like he would have gotten into trouble and gotten more time added to his sentence. However, once he got to San Quentin he quickly got onto the waiting list for self-help programs. “When I get out,

I hope I can establish myself in a career and take care of my son who is two. To do this I need job skills and other help.” “I’m signed up for Restorative Justice and a Kid CAT Youth Offender Support Group,” Elkins said. “I’m interested in college and taking vocational courses like welding, plumbing and construction. I earned my GED in the juvenile hall. Now I really want to learn things that will help me when I get out. I don’t want to come back to prison.”

## From Prisoner to Advocate Attorney

*‘Youth in adult jails and prisons are more likely to be assaulted sexually and physically’*

By John Lam  
Journalism Guild Writer

America needs serious reform in the juvenile justice system, according to Francis Guzman, a former youth offender turned youth-advocate attorney. “At age 15, I was arrested for robbing a liquor store with a handgun. Although this was my first offense, I was sentenced to 15 years – the maximum time allowable by statute – and committed to the California Youth Authority (CYA), the state’s juvenile prison system,” says Guzman.

“Approximately 250,000 youth under age 18 are tried in the adult criminal system each year, with nearly 100,000 incarcerated in adult jails and prisons. These statistics are the aftermath of a narrative dating back to the early ‘90s,” the *Slate Group* reported. Guzman said, “When I arrived in 1996, the CYA had over 10,000 youth in a prison system designed to hold only 6,000. There were unconscionable levels of violence and corruption. Many of the youth committed to the CYA had long histories of abuse, abandonment, and neglect; many

more suffered from developmental disabilities.” Currently, California’s Department of Juvenile Justice has less than 700 juveniles in custody. “I was committed to the CYA to be rehabilitated, according to the judge who sentenced me. Instead, I came out of the justice system in far worse shape than when I went in. I learned to distrust authority, and to deal with conflict through aggression and violence. For years after my release I suffered from post-traumatic stress, anxiety and depression stemming from my experiences inside,” Guzman adds. The *Slate Group* reported, “Youth in adult jails and prisons are more likely to be assaulted both sexually and physically by other inmates and by guards. They have little to no access to...mental health care tailored to their age.”

## Prop. 47 Gave Juveniles Same Sentence Reduction as Adults

By Tommy Bryant  
Journalism Guild Writer

Juveniles have the same right to reduced sentences as adults under Proposition 47, a three-judge state court has ruled. The ruling came in the case of a 15-year-old identified only as Alejandro who was given a felony sentence of three years in juvenile custody for trying to steal a bag of chips and three bottles of vodka, reported the *Los Angeles Times*. Proposition 47 reduced shoplifting felonies to misdemeanors if the value of items stolen were less than \$950. In Alejandro’s case, this would have meant a maximum sentence of eight months. “Under what rationale do we select out a 15-year-old for a more condemnatory consequence than a 32-year-old?” asked Robert Fellmeth, law professor at the University of San Diego and Children’s Advocacy Institute. Alejandro’s public defender

petitioned for the change to a judge in the Superior Court. The judge approved the change and had the felony stricken from his record, and had his DNA sample removed from the state’s database. San Diego County District Attorney Bonnie Dumanis appealed and lost to a 3-0 vote by the state’s appeals court. The viewpoint of Dunmanis means juveniles could serve more time in custody than adults with the same crime,” according to arguments by the ACLU. “We’ve always believed it applied to juveniles,” said Los Angeles prosecutor Kerry White, who supervises the county’s juvenile division. Prosecutors did not wait until the San Diego case was decided,” according to White. Alejandro is back in high school and has not been re-arrested, according to Maryann D’Addezio Kotler, the assistant supervising attorney for public defenders in San Diego juvenile delinquency branch.

“We are one of the few prisons that are open for the youth offender program. The warden is very supportive of bringing young men here,” said Steve Emrick, San Quentin State Prison Community Partnership Manager. “We are also relying on men in programs that see them [the young men] to encourage them to get involved in these programs.” Most other Youth Offender Program participants who arrived at San Quentin are seeking to better themselves with educational and self-help classes. Rodolfo Medina-Barragan, 18, serving 21 years for an attempted murder he committed at 17, said he has earned his GED and is on a waiting list for Patten University Project. “I am glad to be here. So far a lot of guys have spoke[n] to me and invited me to different programs. When I get out I would like to continue to go to school.”

Louis Scott, 47, incarcerated 19 years, is one of several Restorative Justice Group facilitators who are helping these young men navigate the opportunities available at San Quentin. “Amazingly I find them very receptive,” said Scott, who is serving 199 years to life. “It’s important to capture them right now while they are fresh inside the system and give them a positive path to follow, as opposed to the negativity that a lot of us [were] subjected to when we first came in.”

The Rand Corporation found that when prisoners receive correctional education while incarcerated, it improves their ability to stay out of prison by 43 percent compared to prisoners who do not get an education in prison. San Quentin has a large juvenile lifer population that has been incarcerated for an average 20 or more years. They understand the challenges of entering the prison system at a young age and are eager to help the participants of the Youth Offender Program have a different experience. Medina-Barragan illustrates the point: “All I know about the level three is that there is a lot of violence and people can die there. I’ve never been there, but since I was in the juvenile hall and county jail that’s all I heard about prison.” “The department and the inmate population recognized that these young men need to be supported and redirected from trouble to receive a second chance in life,” Emrick said.

Efrain Lara, 19, convicted of assault with a deadly weapon that he committed at the age of 17, was sentenced to seven years. “At 12 years old I was working in the fields with my dad. My only job at 17 was in the grape fields. If I have to, I’ll do that when I get out, but I need an education and trades so I can get better jobs.” “When I came in to prison at 20, I went directly to level four maximum security,” said Kid CAT Chairman Tommy Winfrey. “I realize now that I was looking for role models in my life, and I was influenced by the violence and negativity I saw around me.”

## Trauma-Focused Therapy Helps Children With Incarcerated Parents

More than 2.7 million children had a parent incarcerated, and a Brooklyn organization is working to help some of them deal with the post-traumatic stress disorder and related anxiety that can result from it. That’s the report of the Pew Charitable Trust, which said the number of parents in jails and prisons has skyrocketed since 1980. “One of the best treatments for these children is trauma-focused cognitive behavioral therapy [CBT], which Children of Promise uses in its clinic,” *BuzzFeed News* reported. “Trauma-focused CBT, which can take weeks or months with a trained therapist ... helps kids and parents find what triggers their strongest feelings and worst behaviors and teaches them how to redirect that energy in a more positive direction.” “These traumas are similar to what’s experienced by the children of soldiers, whose parents leave and then come home changed. A flood of research over the past decade has focused on the mental health of military kids, and in 2012 President Obama issued an executive order to expand mental health services for military members and their families,” *Buzzfeed* reported.

“After three years spent fundraising, hiring staff and screening and training mentors, the organization opened its doors in a church in Bedford-Stuyvesant, a Brooklyn neighborhood with one of the city’s highest incarceration rates. It’s the only after-school program for this population in New York,” *Buzzfeed* reported. Sharon Content founded the organization in 2006 with government grants and donations from individuals and companies. The group provides after-school and summer programs, along with access to a mental health clinic that is staffed by three clinicians, two psychiatrists, a psychologist, seven master of social work interns and 20 non-clinical staff members. “As an after-school and summer program, Children of Promise tends to fit with the busy schedules of working parents. For some of the kids, if they act out in school, their guidance counselors will call (staff at Promise) instead of their parents. That takes some of the stress off parents who can’t afford to take time away from work to fish their misbehaving child out of trouble,” *Buzzfeed* reported.

– John Lam

Kid CAT (Creating Awareness Together) is a group of men that committed their crimes as teens and were sentenced as adults to life terms. The group’s mission is to inspire humanity through education, mentorship and restorative practices. Kid CAT Speaks wants to hear from the male and female juvenile lifers, educators, and policy makers concerning juvenile justice issues and rehabilitation. Contact us at San Quentin News, Att: Kid CAT Speaks, 1 Main St., San Quentin, CA 94974







# Joint Venture Winds Up With Final Checks

By **Rahsaan Thomas**  
Staff Writer

Victim advocacy representatives came into San Quentin, accompanied by Marin County District Attorney Edward Berberian, to receive the last victim compensation checks from Joint Venture company Labcon.

"This is the last check presentation for us. We stopped working up here about eight to nine months ago because the company moved from San Rafael to Petaluma," Labcon president Jim Happ said at the Oct. 19 ceremony.

For 23 years Labcon was a successful Joint Venture program in San Quentin. Joint Venture legislation—passed in 1990 under Proposition 139—provides incarcerated Americans the opportunity to learn job skills, earn comparable wages, give back to the community and prepare for reentry, according to California Prison Industry Authority Administrator Rusty Bechtold.

"Our number one product is offenders who don't come back. That's why I do what I do," Bechtold added.

Joint Ventures participants' paychecks are divided into five slices, including federal, state, and local taxes, 20 percent room and board, 20 percent Inmate Trust Account, 20 percent Mandatory Savings and 20 percent Victims Compensation.

"It's not just about the mon-



Labcon joint venture and Warden R. Davis present checks to D.A. Edward Berberian and victims' advocacy organizations

ey we raise for the victims," said Happ. "For a guy to get out with \$8-10 thousand in the bank, that's a big difference from \$200 bucks."

Representatives from three victims' advocacy organizations attended the small ceremony and received \$3,700.76 each from the mandatory victim compensation deductions. The funds must be spent on services for the victims of crime.

Warden Ron Davis said, "I selected them because they met our criteria and requirements."

"Our program will use these funds to continue bringing program services to the children," Dr. Michael Grogan, executive director of Jeannette Prandi Children's Center.

Berberian said, "It is so important to get to these kids and help them. Money such as this will go to services to support them in that therapy context."

The Children's Center is a child-abuse-intervention program located in San Rafael. Grogan works with Berberian and the police to guide where

cases go.

Co-chair volunteers Natasha Singh and Kim Tsuchimoto represented the Center for Domestic Peace.

"This really gives us tremendous hope because we can't end violence unless we do it together. This check will buy women and children months of safety, and it buys something more profound—hope," Singh said.

"The money would help stop Marin County's number one crime, domestic violence," Tsuchimoto said.

# New Execution Drug to Receive Public Comment in January

Continued from Page 1

Since the 1980s many states in the U.S. have conducted executions using a three-drug "cocktail." However, the European Union has forbidden manufacturers to sell their products to the U.S. if the drugs are to be used in capital punishment.

The botched 2015 execution of Charles F. Warner in Oklahoma, along with lawsuits in various states against three-drug executions, has led states across the country to switch to one-drug executions. All this comes after the U.S. Supreme Court, earlier this year, refused to block Oklahoma from using a controversial chemical as part of its three-drug protocol for lethal injections.

California's proposal for a one-drug procedure was submitted on Nov. 6 in order to meet a court-imposed deadline on the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation (CDCR), which had been sued by the families of murder victims who accused the state of dragging its feet on executions.

If the proposed one-drug procedure is implemented, 16 condemned men who have exhausted their appeals could be issued death warrants. The condemned men's convictions occurred between 1981 and 1989. They range in age from the oldest, 78 (Royal Hayes), to the youngest, 49 (Tiequon Cox).

The proposed execution method would require San



Tiequon Cox

Quentin's warden to choose one of the following lethal barbiturates: pentobarbital, amobarbital, secobarbital or thiopental, depending on which drug is available.

One-drug executions might cost slightly more than \$185,000 per condemned prisoner, including the cost of drugs and the staff time needed to carry out the procedure.

The CDCR commented that the 2005 execution of Stanley "Tookie" Williams, founder of the "Crips" gang, was the costliest in the state's history. Before the execution, all state prisons were "placed on lockdown alert status and extra security measures were implemented," due to William's high-profile status. According to the department, while it is possible that future executions could require this level of cost, it is not indicative of the average cost associated with an execution.

Prior to a scheduled execution, a sanity review of the condemned prisoner is conducted. Thereafter, the

prisoner receives his or her requested last meal, gives instructions on what to do with personal property and disposal of remains, along with burial arrangements. If the prisoner resists the execution, a use-of-force procedure is set in place.

In order to carry out executions, CDCR must create and train a Lethal Injection Team that comprises a minimum of 12 members.

The Intravenous Sub-Team (IST) would have a minimum of four members. The IST places the one-drug injection needles in the appropriate veins and places the heart monitor on the condemned prisoner.

The Infusion Sub-Team prepares the one-drug barbiturate according to the manufacturer's directions. At least one of the four members must be a physician, physician's assistant, pharmacist, registered nurse, emergency medical technician, paramedic or medic.

The Record Keeping Sub-Team (RKST) consists of a minimum of four members and is tasked with the countdown to beginning the injections, keeping a log and documenting each step of the execution.

Inside the execution chamber will be three color-coded trays, consisting of 7.5 grams of the one-drug barbiturate chosen by the warden.

Tray A, color-coded red, is the primary source of the lethal injection drug. Tray B, colored-coded blue, is a backup tray. Tray C, color-coded

yellow, is an alternate backup tray.

Each tray has six color-coded syringes, five of which contain the one-drug barbiturate and one syringe containing a saline flush.

According to the proposed procedure, if all six syringes from Tray A have been administered, 10 minutes have elapsed and death has not been declared, the warden orders the backup syringes from Tray B. If the syringes from Tray B have been administered, 10 minutes have elapsed and death has not been declared, the alternate backups from Tray C would be administered.

In the event all six syringes from Tray C have been administered, 10 minutes have elapsed and death has not been declared, the warden orders the preparation of five additional syringes of the one-drug barbiturate.

In the event all five syringes have been administered, 10 minutes have elapsed and death has not been declared, the warden orders the preparation of a second set of five additional syringes of the one-drug barbiturate for the execution to be carried out.

After the condemned prisoner expires, the warden reads a prepared statement via the public address system notifying the witnesses the execution is complete.

The media is to be notified by the warden about an hour after the execution that the sentence has been carried out,

"People aren't born violent. You learn it. You can unlearn it," said Singh about the aim of their Mankind and Womankind therapy program.

The third agency, Marin Advocates for Children, follows minors through the court system and makes recommendations to the judges, according to Cyndy Doherty, the executive director.

"We want to stop child abuse now. This donation is going to help us get [kids] in safe homes," Doherty said to those in attendance.

There are plans to start up two new Joint Venture programs next year.

The Big Dawg Company will pay \$9 to \$12 an hour for light manufacturing assembly. Turn to You, Inc., wants to bring coding jobs back from overseas and utilize incarcerated Americans. Wages will be in the range of \$15 an hour.

The Employment Development Department sets the pay rate in the lower 10<sup>th</sup> percentile of wages earned in that field and gives workers raises after every 2,080 hours worked, said Bechtold.

"Our goal is to have both projects operating in the first quarter of next year," said Bechtold.

According to PIA acting manager Gary Lardeo, "the requirements for participation in the Joint Venture programs haven't been nailed down yet."

**Charles David Henry**  
contributed to this story

including the time of death, along with any statement by the condemned prisoner.

There are procedures to "ensure the inmate's body is placed with care and dignity into a postmortem bag pending removal as pre-arranged with the contract mortuary."



Royal Hayes

**Public Comment Period:**

Written comments about the proposed regulation must be submitted by **January 7, 2016, 5:00 p.m.** to California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation and RPMB, P.O. Box 942883, Sacramento, CA 94283-0001, by fax to (916) 324-6075, or by e-mail to [LLcomments@cdcr.ca.gov](mailto:LLcomments@cdcr.ca.gov).

**Public Hearing:**  
**January 22, 2016 - 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.**  
**Department of Health Care Services**  
**East End Complex - The Auditorium**  
**1500 Capitol Avenue**  
**Sacramento, CA 95814**



# Shakespeare Inspires Inmate Plays on Prison Life

By Juan Haines  
Managing Editor

A prison chapel served as a theater for San Quentin inmates as they revealed some of the hardest parts of prison life through performances inspired by Shakespearean plays.

Inmates performed a total of 16 acts in their October showcase, “Parallel Play: Original Theater Inspired by Shakespeare,” in the San Quentin State Prison Protestant Chapel. About 100 Bay Area community members and 50 inmates and prison staff made up the audience.

“These performances are ripe with vulnerability, honesty, creativity and wisdom,” director Suraya Keating wrote in the play’s program. Keating noted that the plays invited the audience to reflect on the men’s real-life experiences through Shakespearean themes like manhood, loyalty and betrayal.

Inmate Eric Durr opened the show with comedy based on themes from Macbeth and Julius Caesar. After some laughs, the stage was set for serious drama. Performances included *Highs and Lows* by Le’Mar “Maverick” Harrison and *Growing Pains* by Andress Yancy.

Some inmates served as both actors and writers. Chris Marshall Sr. was incarcerated in 2001 and arrived at San Quentin in 2010. He is serving a life sentence under the Three Strikes Law. His third strike was forgery. He never considered pursuing the arts until joining Shakespeare at San Quentin and deciding to write a piece for performance.

“With the arts, I must open

myself thoroughly to an audience,” Marshall said. “I’ve never done that before. It caused me to be authentic.”

Marshall wrote a piece titled *Power of the Pronoun* about transgender inmates.

“The most disadvantaged people in the prison system are transgender females,” Marshall said. “I got to know two transgender females, and they allowed me to tell their story.”

Actor Jarvis “Lady Jae” Clark, a transgender inmate, said *Power of the Pronoun* conveyed a message of tolerance and acceptance — “to look beyond the person’s appearance and see the spirit, not just the shell of the person.”

Clark said the theater group offers her an opportunity to humanize herself to other inmates.

“I’m not this transgender just running around here,” she said. “I have emotions. This allows me to show that I’m human.”

The event inspired audience members who visited from outside the prison walls. Bay Area native Stan Urban said the first time he came inside San Quentin was on a field trip in 1971 as a high school student.

“It was a very different place than it is today,” Urban said. “What I see here today is incredible.”

Steve Emrick, the prison’s community partnership manager, was happy that community members were able to witness the inmates’ success.

“When I see guys come to San Quentin from other institutions — higher levels — and perform here, it’s a big reward for me,” Emrick said. “Also rewarding is to see people who’ve never been in here see the talent and energy and be able to

compare it with what they see from the outside. The arts allow inmates to address these issues and say, ‘I’m an actor. I’m an artist.’ They are finding who they are at their core.”

The show ended with a question and answer session. Many audience members asked about the interaction between the inmates and women volunteers, since the Shakespeare at San Quentin program is conducted by females.

“It seems that it takes a lot of courage,” said Lisa from the audience. “Were you worried about saying something controversial?”

Lesley Currier of *Marin Shakespeare* a volunteer, responded to these queries, saying that the program allows inmates to practice male/female working relationships.

“In here, it’s a hard life,” inmate/actor Azraal Ford said. “Theater is like stepping out of the comfort zone. You begin to question yourself. They are used to seeing me as a brutal Viking type of person. Doing theater allows me to return to myself. However, I still question myself: How will my peers see me when I’m known as the tattooed monster? So what I’ve done to step out of my comfort zone is not to just stick my foot in the water; I just jumped in.”

Another audience member asked about the common themes of violence and masculinity in many of the performances.

“It’s how we’ve learned masculinity,” inmate/actor Adnan Khan said. “We’ve learned masculinity through violence. After being in this program, we’re learning that masculinity is being sensitive and caring — which are definitions that we didn’t consider before.”



Photo by Sam Hearn

An improv scene of “What Would You Do?” depicting a friend (Antwan Williams) robbing (Azraal Ford)

Inmate/actor John Windham added, “Masculinity comes from understanding self. It’s not about what other people think of me; it’s what I think about myself. In the past, we let other people define who we are. Now, it’s about who I know I am. It’s time for me to be me. Masculinity includes loving, care, empathy, respect — it’s all these that defines being a man for me.”

San Quentin’s theater program is sponsored by *Marin Shakespeare Company*. Currier hosts training workshops, *Shakespeare for Social Justice*, where community members learn to guide inmates to

use their performances as a form of therapy and rehabilitation.

*Shakespeare at San Quentin* was established in 2003. It can be supported by contacting Currier at (415) 499-4485 or [lesley@marinshakespeare.org](mailto:lesley@marinshakespeare.org) or Marin Shakespeare Company; P.O. Box 4053; San Rafael, CA 94913; [www.marinshakespeare.org](http://www.marinshakespeare.org).

Music for the event was provided by: John Holiday, congas; Allen “Squirrel” Ware, keyboard; Charles “Ceeboo” King, drums; “Funky” Walker, bass. *Don’t Cry For Me* was performed by Maverick and Banks.



Photo by Sam Hearn

Andres Yancy (middle) throws his hands up to signify that not speaking about AIDS doesn’t make it less real

- The 16 original acts were:
- Razed by the State*: Ronell Draper
  - Highs and Low*: Le’Mar “Maverick” Harrison
  - Power of the Pronoun*: Chris Marshall
  - The Downfall of Relationships in America*: Jason “Jay” Green
  - Crossroads*: Le’Mar “Maverick” Harrison
  - Unbreakable Bonds*: Antwan “Banks” Williams
  - Carry On*: Richie Morris
  - Growing Pains*: Andress Yancy
  - Cooking with Hope*: Nicola Bucci
  - Life or Death*: Le’Mar “Maverick” Harrison
  - A Man’s World*: Emile DeWeaver
  - The Phoenix Rises, The Phoenix Falls*: Azraal Ford
  - When All Is Said and Done*: Nythell “Nate” Collins
  - Dancing with Demons Under a Pale Moon*: Maurice “Reese” Reed
  - Changing Face*: Anouthinh “Choy” Pangthong and Jason “Alias” Jones
  - The Voices From Within*: Belize Villafranco



# Golden State Warriors Return With an Attitude

*‘Their biggest accomplishment is letting everybody know who the real Warriors are’*

*Continued from Page 1*

in September. After news reports of Head Coach Steve Kerr’s injury and back surgery, it wasn’t clear if the game would happen at all. Later, the whole team was cleared to come in Oct. 23. Word spread like wildfire on the yard.

San Quentin Warriors Montrell Vines and Brad Shells were shooting jump shots at 9 a.m. Point guard Joshua Burton swept the surface of the blue-green basketball court, equipped with uneven opposite rims. San Quentin’s play-by-play announcer, Aaron “Harun” Taylor, scrambled to get the PA system working with the help of Ben Ford.

At around 11 a.m., Bob Myers, the Golden State Warriors general manager, led his team onto the Lower Yard with a glint of determination in his eyes. After losing last year’s game by four points, this year was his. By the end of the game, Myers had dropped 43 points and subbed out with six minutes still on the clock.

The Golden State team had just returned to the Bay Area at 1:30 a.m. from a week-long pre-season road trip. Still, many of them showed up.

“We love coming in. So, we made it work. I think for us to show up lets everyone here know you are important, no matter where you are in life,” said Myers pre-game.

The San Quentin Warriors lost 99-76 to Golden State, the team that has won everything this year including the D-League Championship and NBA Championship. Additionally, player Stephen Curry won League MVP, Myers won NBA Executive of the Year and Andre Iguodala won the Finals MVP.

“We were ready. We were hungry,” said Kirk Lacob, the Golden State assistant general manager. “We wanted the Triple Crown—the NBA title,



Photo by Eddie Herena

Golden State Warriors and Staff with the San Quentin Warriors and referees

the D-League title and the San Quentin title.”

Before the game, San Quentin Warrior Head Coach Daniel Wright welcomed Golden State’s crew, including former NBA players turned coaches Luke Walton and Jarron Collins, Marreese “Mo Buckets” Speights, Kent and Kirk Lacob, Julian Mills, James Laughlin, Nick Uren and Chris Demarco. Collins coached the game.

“Their biggest accomplishment is letting everybody know who the real Warriors are,” joked Wright.

San Quentin started off strong with the support of over 300 inmates and about 20 staff members. They won the opening tip and Harry “ATL” Smith made their first two baskets as turnovers.

Then Myers picked up his game. He nailed six three-pointers against the zone de-

fense and scored inside. Myers also had 5 blocks and 2 steals on defense.

However, Myers had help. Kirk Lacob made 4 three-pointers and finished with 13 points and 4 assists. Kent finished with 11 total points. Demarco added 23 points and 11 rebounds.

San Quentin’s Allan McIntosh answered with back-to-back long-range shots. He made 6 threes, finishing with 25 points. Teammate Jason Jones added 12 points with 8 assists and 4 steals.

At halftime, Myers addressed the crowd. “(Iguodala) was selfless and humble and ready when called and became the MVP of the Championship. I have a saying now ‘Beware of the fury of the patient man.’ So be ready when your time comes.”

Then Myers, Walton, Spei-

ghts and the others chatted with fans like old friends, signed autographs and posed for photos.

“Just having this day and game shows that anything in life is possible,” said Vines

While the game was in full swing, Fresno City College basketball Head Coach Ed Madec was touring with his team. They watched for a few minutes.

They saw Walton miss a 10-foot shot, get his own rebound and then miss again.

“Non-shooter!” they heckled.

Walton finished with only 2 points from free throws and 7 assists.

The Fresno team got to see professionals play against incarcerated men, which proved to be a very humbling experience.

“It goes to show how one bad move could land you here,” said Jaffery Stillman, a Fresno City forward.

Brittany Owens, a secretary who works on Death Row, said, “It gives incarcerated men hope. It creates a positive vibe, gives them something to look forward to.”

Walton shared this sentiment.

“It’s great. People in here are locked up but it’s great for the mind and heart to do some regular stuff,” said Walton.



Photo by Harold Meeks

Kirk Lacob and Bob Myers defending Allan McIntosh

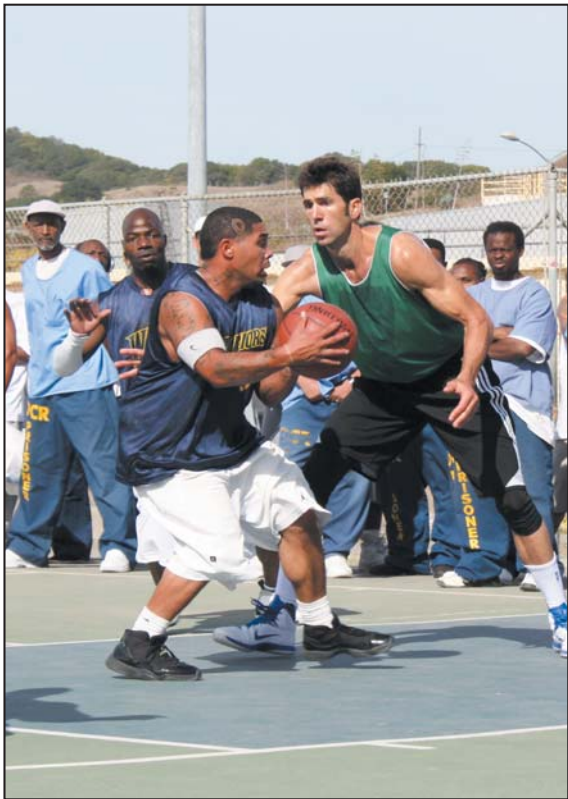


Photo by Harold Meeks

Jason Jones trying to score on Bob Myers



# Parole Board Looks Again...OKs Inmate Release

By **Rahsaan Thomas**  
Staff Writer

A letter from the Board of Parole Hearings saying, “The decision to deny your release has been vacated and your release approved,” was how Kacy Lloyd heard the good news.

“I was elated. I couldn’t even read the paper; I thought it said the wrong thing. I had to have a neighbor read it to me,” said Lloyd.

Lloyd is a non-violent second-striker who has been eligible for parole since a federal court ordered the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation to start considering men in his category for release on Jan. 1, 2015.

It wasn’t until March 13 that the classification committee reviewed his case. They determined Lloyd met the criteria

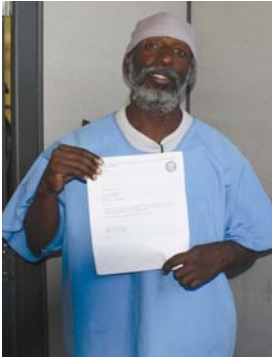


Photo by Brian Assey

Kacy Lloyd

for relief and his file was sent to the board for review—without him being present, which is part of the new process for non-violent second strikers (NVSS).

The BPH denied Lloyd release on April 30 based on its

erroneous finding that he had 10 prior felony convictions, according to a BPH 1047 form. However, in reality, Lloyd had four priors.

“It felt like a door collapsed on me. After doing all the work that I had done, I wondered what else could I do to be considered a candidate?” said Lloyd.

He has completed several self-help groups and vocational programs.

He didn’t know what the appeal process was for a second-striker board decision, which is different from regular lifer parole hearings.

Lloyd says he wrote a letter to Jennifer Shaffer, the head of BPH, expressing that he shouldn’t have been denied parole based on the period before he was rehabilitated and that the denial was based on inaccurate facts.

Finding there was a mistake

of fact, a new non-violent second-striker hearing was held on Sept. 11 and relief was granted.

“I feel like somebody really took the time to look into what was going on and I feel vindicated and exonerated,” said Lloyd. “I was accused of having all these felonies and I knew it wasn’t true. I was happy someone impartial stepped up.”

**“He didn’t know what the appeal process was for a second-striker board decision”**

The *San Quentin News* published a story about Lloyd’s board denial in its September

edition.

Lloyd credits Tony Bebee, principal of the S.Q. Education Department, for taking the time to help him get all his records scanned into his file so it would be there for the board’s second review.

Lloyd says he plans to stay out of prison.

“I’m a certified welder now. The first thing I’m doing is going back to my old job with my certifications,” said Lloyd. “I don’t see for myself anything other than working and having a family. When I was younger, I thought there was something out in the streets that I was missing, but it was just a lot of hype. Hype is only momentary.”

He believes that every group he completed will help him on the outside, saying, “The pieces added up from each group I’ve taken.”

# Restoring Rap Music Back to Its Original Purpose

‘It’s a 700-lb gorilla that is out of control’

By **Rahsaan Thomas**  
Staff Writer

What can be done to return mainstream rap music back to its positive roots? The Yard Talk panel discussed how this could happen.

**Eric Curtis:** “We understand someone will always do what others want for enough money, but there is a way to force them to produce positive music. They either go with the flow or we close their doors.”

**Antwan Williams:** “You can’t take it back. It needs a re-birth; it needs to start all over. What you can do is start fresh, start a whole new buzz, a new crowd. If your car is broke, buy a new one. Don’t try to fix something that don’t want to be fixed.”

**Marcus Henderson:** “It’s

## Yard Talk

about getting back to our true nature which is our community.”

**John “Yahya” Johnson:** “It’s a 700-lb gorilla that is out of control and the guns we working with are ineffective. You have to change society’s thinking and make the life they’re glorifying look less shiny. Products go in and out of season. We change the thinking and the industry will go with it.”

**Williams:** “You change the game by telling your story. I don’t care about how much you talk about killing; if you are on the street, you ain’t killing people. Really living that life consumes you. If you’re work-

ing hard to feed your kids, talk about that. If you just lost your mother and father, talk about that. There are more people who relate to that than who has the newest Bentley or ‘I’m popping this bottle.’ That’s how you change the game.”

**Johnson:** “All the materials on the web have made the world smaller so people are able to see clearer. They are more enlightened.”

**Marcus Henderson:** “We lost control of the stations. BET sold out. We can always buy something else.”

Rapper KRS1 said that rap music was the voice of Black people, back in the early ‘90s on his *Edutainment* album.

Maybe that is becoming true again.

Several music superstars, led by Jay Z, have created Tidal, an online music streaming service. They include Paul McCartney, Beyonce, Rihanna, Kanye West, Madonna, Pharrell and others. Online streaming gives artists the opportunity to deliver their music straight to audiences. However, the question remains: what are they going to do with that ability? Will the music focus on more responsible, positive themes or remain the same?

Kendrick Lamar has taken a step in the right direction with his album, *To Pimp a Butterfly*. Despite the explicit language used, he speaks on real social issues. In *The Blacker the Berry*, he raps about being

a hypocrite for crying when Trayvon Martin was killed, while gangbanging had him trying to kill Black men too. On “I” he argues that using the N-word is justified because it stems from the Ethiopian title Negus, which means king, ruler, or emperor.

In conclusion, the panel anticipates the *All Lives Matter* movement will take rap music along with it. They see promise in songs like “*Feeling Black*” by the Dream and “*Glory*” by John Legend and Common. Talent rappers like Lecrae and San Quentin’s Williams (“Banks”) demonstrate that the music can be aggressive and real without being negative.

There is hope yet.

**-Trenise Ferreira**  
*contributed to this story*

# Revisiting the Most Memorable Winter Holidays

By **Angelo Falcone**  
Journalism Guild Writer

“If you could go back in time and repeat a winter holiday season, how old would you be? Where would you be? Who would you be with?” The men on the mainline had interesting responses:

**Sam Johnson:** “I would be eight years old again. I would be with my brother in Charleston, South Carolina. We were trying to see Santa Claus, but we had fallen asleep the previous year. We were determined that year and stayed up late. At about 12 midnight, we found out who Santa was. It was our mom and dad. All our lives, we thought Santa was a White guy with a beard. We found out that everything we got was from mommy and daddy. Raising my kids, I told them that Santa Claus is mommy and daddy.”

**Philip Senegal:** “It would be 1986. I would be 19 years old again. It would be in Oakland, California. I was with a young lady named Philis. I would go

## Asked On The Line

back not just to relive that time, but to go back to make it better for her. She was pregnant with my first daughter.”

**William Tolbert:** “I would be 10 years old again in Oklahoma. I would be with my mom during Christmas time. She had a tradition of telling us folk tales and we’d drink hot chocolate. The scene would be a Christmas tree and Christmas tree lights. It was the most carefree time in my life.”

**Matthew Nguyen:** “I estimate that it would be 1993 or 1994. I was in second or third grade, eight or nine years old. It was Christmas Eve at a Catholic Church with my family and Santa Claus was giving out toys to all the kids.”

**Raymond Bodine:** “I would go back to New Year’s Eve in 1982. I was totally alone at my farm in Tulare County. I had met my wife on a New Year’s Eve, but my wife and kids had left me a year earlier in 1981

and moved to Oregon. I would change that moment and be with someone instead of being alone.”

**Somdeng Thongsy:** “I would go back to 1993. I was 13 and it was Thanksgiving. I was with my family. Everyone in my family was there and I was very happy.”

**Syren Hong:** “I was nine years old in Long Beach, California. I was with my mom, sister, my younger brother, my four aunts, three uncles, and my grandparents. I was happy because we had three turkeys.”

**Sam Hearn:** “It’s 1995, Christmas Day. I was 18 years old and my dad dropped me off at my daughter’s great-grandmother’s house. If I could go back and relive that day again, I would spend time with grandmother in Fresno, California.”

**Christopher Marshall:** “It was 1995. The first time I had

Christmas with my daughter. I was in Long Beach, California. We visited my parents and grandparents.”

**Eddie Herena:** “I would go back to when I was 21. I was living in San Jose with

my girlfriend. It was my first Christmas living independently and not confined or having to answer to anyone. I had my own place and my own money. It was the best Christmas ever.”

**December is the last of seven months in the year with 31 days. This year, December has five Tuesdays, five Wednesdays, and five Thursdays.**

**According to the World Almanac, December is Universal Human Rights Month, National Drunk and Drugged Driving Prevention Month, National Tie Month, National Colorectal Cancer Education and Awareness Month.**

**The Winter Solstice, or first day of winter, is on Mon., Dec. 21, Christmas Eve is on Thu., Dec. 24, Christmas Day is on Fri., Dec. 25, Kwanzaa begins on Sat., Dec. 26 and New Year’s Eve is on Thu., Dec. 31. A full moon is expected on Fri., Dec. 25 (Christmas Day).**

**For members of the Jewish community, Hanukkah begins at sundown on Sun., Dec. 6 and for the Christian community, the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary, a Holy Day of Obligation, is observed on Tue., Dec. 8, the Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe takes place on Sat., Dec. 12, and the Feast of the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph takes place on Sun., Dec. 27.**

**There are two astrological signs in December: Sagittarius, the sign of the Archer (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21) and Capricorn, the sign of the Goat (Dec. 22 to Jan. 19). The Birthstone for the month of December is the Turquoise or Zircon.**



# The Bad and Good News About 'Empire'

Emile DeWeaver  
Staff Writer

## MOVIE REVIEW

The most popular show on FOX widens the racial divides in America every Wednesday at 9 p.m. *Empire* tells the story of Lucious Lyon, a hip-hop music mogul played by Terrence Howard, who's as cold and murderous as a Roman emperor conquering continents.

Some White viewers may not have another frame of reference for marginalized groups struggling to escape poverty. When these viewers contemplate what it is to be a minority in America, they can only draw their knowledge from what they've observed regarding minorities.

That's true even if their observations come from a ridiculous television show. The show's portrayals are a greater disservice to minorities because studies show that viewers of color are in danger of internalizing the negative stereotypes glorified by *Empire*.

Members of S.Q. Reviews have talked about *Empire* on the *Justice Show* (90.7 KALX), a project from the University of California at Berkeley Graduate School of Journalism. Many



of us feel conflicted about the show.

Though we object to how *Empire* characterizes minorities, we're grateful that the popular show employs so many actors of color in an industry that historically excluded minorities from central roles.

S.Q. Reviews meets in the lot between the Education Department and the *San Quentin News* to discuss *Empire*.

"The last scene was stupid," says Juan Meza. "Why would you put a dead body in the district attorney's car?"

Meza refers to the scene where

the district attorney, who is out to bring down Lyons' empire, finds a dead body in her passenger seat and screams. Rahsaan Thomas explains that the dead man is a former witness against Lyons. She hid the fact that he was missing, so that she could execute search warrants under the premise to harass Lyons.

"Now that the D.A. has the body, she can't say he's missing," Thomas says.

"Yeah ..." Meza shakes his head. "If it's about that, they could've dropped that body anywhere."

"They could have done that," Thomas says. "But then, it wouldn't have been *Empire*."

"Exactly!" I shoot forward on my seat. I rant about how irresponsible it is to frame an African-American's struggle against a historically hostile authority with a dead body that reduces a district attorney to hysterics.

"It would be a regular soap, just like *Dallas*, if they had better writing," says Meza. "I think it's the dialogue. They're stereotyping the way people speak. His kids didn't grow up poor or struggling. They've had the best education money can buy, but two of them talk and act like

they're from the hood."

"You're onto something," I say. "Last week, after listening to me for 30 seconds, a well-intentioned volunteer told me that I don't talk like I belong in prison. I thought to myself, 'has diction become the standard of criminality?'"

I then say how I meet many people who think I am the exception to the rule of the kind of people who live in prison. I explain how they don't realize how many people with my same story have transformed themselves.

"My exceptionalism in comparison to other incarcerated Americans revolves around my ambition and articulation, but my drive and diction cannot be the measurement of human worth and redemption; yet for many it is," I say. "I'm angry and impotent, and so, yes, ranting about *Empire* and the way Lucious' kids talk has become my outlet."

I fear that if nothing is done to change the kind of images that become popular on television, then there is no chance for changing the result of such portrayals in the streets and among viewers.

## Nepal Delegation Embraces Restorative Justice Practice

*'I didn't know what forgiveness looked like'*

*Continued from Page 1*

Phoeun You welcomed the group. Prior to the discussion, participants meditated before "checking in" to share how they want to be remembered.

The comments ranged from "kindness," "honesty," "forgiving and forgiven," "lived without judgment" and "forgiveness."

For several hours, the Nepali delegation listened to incarcerated Americans talk about the impact their crimes had on victims, society and themselves. The men also discussed how to heal their victims and themselves in the wake of their offenses.

"I came into the program with an open heart," said Dwayne "Kairi" Reynolds. "I wanted to be open and honest. I was ashamed of the person I had become."

Reynolds said in 1990 he killed his work supervisor. He said his victim's survivor wanted to know who he was.

"I didn't know what forgiveness looked like," said Reynolds. "I was afraid. But when I shook her hand, I cried." He said the victim's survivor forgave him.

"I think satisfaction of healing of the victim is a good outcome and I'm impressed," said Rajendra Khare. "At the last moment when she forgives him that's important, and that he takes responsibility."

Khare listened to Reynolds' story and those of others intensely. He studied the group as he jotted down notes to take back with him to Nepal.

"That's just so moving," said Sujata Baliga of Reynolds. "I felt grateful."

IPP Replication Director Soniya Shah said some victims'



Nepal delegation and inmates listen to stories of transformation and solutions to criminal justice problems

Raphael Casale

family members have "mixed feelings" about survivors engaging in dialogue with offenders.

Shah described how victims might sometimes attend a parole hearing and influence how the denial of a release date takes place.

Bimal Ponder was curious about the system of parole, the process of hearings with the parole board and victim-offender reconciliation. He asked, "What does it take to bring victims in here?"

"Victims don't always come to parole hearings," explained Baliga. "Sometimes they send a letter."

Tommy Ross, who has been incarcerated 30 years, said the legal process sometimes leaves victims and offenders faceless and voiceless. By connecting with one of his victims, he was able to relate to the harm he had

caused and to learn empathy.

"It's validating to hear him (Ross) say he needed to hear from his first victim," said Baliga.

"Prior to San Quentin I had no idea what restorative justice was," said Ross. "Restorative justice has allowed me to connect with others. I'm able to see and be seen; hear and be heard."

Isaiah Thompson has been incarcerated for 16 years for attempted murder. He said everyone should be dealt with, victim and offender.

"Our justice systems are retributive, and they're not working," said Thompson. He explained how coming face to face with victims is sometimes therapeutic for both parties. "I saw the look on those people's (victims) faces and realized I was broken," he said.

Thompson shared a story

with the judges: In San Quentin he met the perpetrator of a crime in which his great-uncle was murdered. "I was conflicted," he said. Instead of exacting vengeance, he used restorative justice practices to connect and forgive. "I began healing," he said.

Thompson said the example in his story was important for everyone. "I realized it's no longer our story but the world's story," he said.

Taonga Rolando Ngoma De Leslie asked the men, "What did it take to change?"

"I didn't want to face myself," said Nghiep "Ke" Lam, who has been incarcerated 17 years for murder.

Lam quoted his victim's mother as saying, "Though I laugh and have fun, I'm not truly happy. When I visit my son, I visit a grave."

Lam explained what took

place at his first parole hearing. He was denied parole and told he would be reconsidered in five years.

Lam said VOEG helped him to gain insight, and a victim survivors' panel made him feel the impact he has made on the family of his victim. It was then that he applied himself to making the changes necessary to turn his life around.

At his next parole hearing Lam said his victim's parents made their sentiments known again.

Lam said the mother of his victim wrote a letter to tell him that he "will never know what happiness is." Lam was surprised when he read further, "I want you to know I forgive you," she wrote.

Lam said his victim's father wrote, "I truly believe you are remorseful. I forgive you," adding, "I hope you do well out there."

"The mechanism proves to be so important," said Keshari Raj Pandit. "What happened in the second parole hearing?"

Lam said by applying what he learned in VOEG and restorative justice he has been able to turn his life around. The Board of Parole Hearings recognized it and granted Lam a parole date.

"I've forgiven myself many years ago," said Lam.

At the end of the discussion, everyone stood up from their seats, formed a circle and held hands for a closing thought.

"We don't need a circle to do this," said You. He said it starts at home. He then asked everyone to "check out" and express what they were feeling.

The first comment was about feeling a "new dimension," the last was on feeling "hopeful."



# ‘Houses of Healing’ Helps Transform Lives

**By Kathleen Jackson  
Contributing Writer**

A program called Houses of Healing has helped transform the lives of more than 100 men at San Quentin State Prison.

Chris Gallo, a recent graduate, describes it this way:

“Houses of Healing is a comprehensive look into the self. With discussions on self-understanding, healing relationships, and stress management, this 30-session class instructs on being true to one’s core self. Participants learn to identify and deal with their sub-personalities, such as anger, selfishness, control, insecurity, and low self-esteem.”

“The Houses of Healing book and course written by Robin Casarjian over 20 years ago are currently implemented in over 200 men and women’s prisons across the country,” said facilitator Susan Shannon.

“This course is a great class to take for seasoned programmers who would like to go deeper into some of the core teachings of other foremost San Quentin self-help groups, as well as for men new to any program at all.”

Some graduates have become master facilitators of other programs. The Houses of Healing groups are limited to 15 or less, and run approximately seven to



Kathleen Jackson (middle front row) with Houses of Healing participants

nine months.

Father George Williams, the Catholic chaplain at San Quentin, brought the program into The Q. More than 100 men have completed the course and more are on a waiting list.

Here are some comments from students:

“Houses of Healing is a *must* for any lifer who wishes to be

able to express himself better on the impact of his crime, anger, abuse and self-worth.” -- Allen

“The program...took me by the hand and led me to my past, which helped me understand the grief, pain, and suffering I created.” -- Flavio

“It helped me to maintain an attitude of introspection. It has reinforced my emotional aware-

ness and allowed me to develop relationships I might not have had otherwise.” -- Ray

“I learned how to forgive myself. Before I learned that I walked the Earth feeling shame, guilt, and a lot of fear. Once I learned the value of self-forgiveness and how to forgive the sun got brighter and the air cleared. I became whole again.” -- Glenns

“It helped me have further understanding in accepting responsibility for my actions.” -- Richard

“Houses of Healing is really life-changing.” -- Harry

“Thanks to House of Healing, I have been able to connect my childhood trauma to my criminal behavior. I’m filled with joy from what I’ve learned in this class, and now my life feels very complete.” -- Darnell (Mo)

“I know the pains that I have caused will never go away, but now I have a better understanding of where it started from as a child, and I can heal that inner child.” -- Lee

“I’ve learned forgiveness plus how to breathe, to watch the sky, and to meditate. I now think cool thoughts, not just hot ones. I’ve learned that Houses of Healing isn’t just about short time or short-term fixes, but a life change that I must use each day. I thank Houses of Healing for giving me more tools for my tool box of life.” John

“The biggest impact for me has been the acknowledgement of those sub-personalities and the realization that they are not a part of my core-self. I am not broken or distorted, but pained by the echo of my past. By following the guided steps, I have been able to resist and re-write my story.” -- Chris

## Rapper Hercules Cuevas vs. the Raiders Game

**By Rahsaan Thomas  
San Quentin News Staff**

Visiting Christian rapper Hercules Cuevas and inside Graced Out members drew nearly 200 men away from their TV sets, when the Oakland Raiders’ was game on.

“Forget the football game, we gonna give God some time,” remarked San Quentin resident and Graced Out member Fanon Figgers, the host of the event in the Protestant Chapel.

Cuevas is part of the Victory Outreach Church in Santa Rosa. He is also part of a youth ministry called God’s Anointed Now Generation (“GANG”).

“God’s gang doesn’t incarcerate; it sets people free,” said Cuevas.

He performed three songs in a passionate fast-paced delivery.

“I don’t bang, but I proclaim His name like a gang-banging maniac,” rapped Cuevas, using references to his old life of growing up around drugs and gangs.

“Don’t come looking for the old me; I killed him, homie,” he sang on a song called, *The Old Me is Dead*.

Cuevas also preformed raps about doing everything big for God and *Who said Gospel Rap Don’t Slap*.

Antwan “Banks” Williams and Lemar “Maverick” Harrison opened the event with *Amen*.

“Thank God I’m not in the cemetery, living only in their memories...,” rapped Williams.

At one point, Figgers called Chaplain Mardi Jackson and Graced Out members Derrick Holloway, Dwight Kennedy and Brandon Perez up to the stage.

Perez was due to parole, and

people are able to see this side of San Quentin. You picture gang violence and rape happening, but it’s amazing to come in here and see none of that is in this place.”

Graced Out’s James Metters preformed a rap song called *God is Love*. It talked about transformation through struggles.

“I’m a Christian on a mission,

out the Town (Oakland), out the game. God saved me when I called on His name,” rapped Metters in an old school style.

In between the rap acts, Antoine Watie preached from the book of Joshua.

Graced Out’s Ferrari Moody closed the event with a sermon about the cost and determination it takes to be a disciple of God.

“The cost of following God may be your reputation,” Moody said. “You can’t be a gangster and a disciple of God. The very thing you spent building up has to die. If you’re going to be in the army of God, you will have to give up something.”

Chaplain Jackson said, “I have seen this ministry grow and grow. God is moving in a mighty way with these men.”

## Fixed Up Bikes Boost At-Risk Kids

**By Nyerere Jase  
Contributing Writer**

A group of women prisoners is refurbishing bicycles to reward at-risk kids who improve grades and school attendance.

“It’s a win-win situation,” said Kimberly Hughes, warden of the California Institution for Women where the bike project is housed. The women are thrilled about giving back to the community, Warden Hughes added

The prison teams with the Riverside Unified School District, the Riverside Police Department, and other agencies to reward Monroe Elementary kids, reports the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation newsletter.

Recently an event was held at the Central Registration Center in Riverside to honor Monroe Elementary students, which included the Ramirez family’s four children who each received refurbished bicycles, helmets and bicycle locks.

Schools Superintendent Dr. David Hansen stated, “In the face of varying circumstances, our students work extremely hard to stay on track. It’s great to know that we have

community partners who care so much about the student families of Riverside that they

would reward our students with donations like this.”

As of July, the prisoners

have donated 20 bicycles to kids who earned better grades and improved attendance.



Riverside School District Superintendent David Hansen, Retired Lieutenant Roy Mabry, Associate Director Carrie Antrim, CIW Warden Kimberly Hughes and Mrs. and Mr. Ramirez with children holding their bicycles



# Son, Here's the Toast I Could Not Give You...

An OG's Perspective

**By Watani Stiner**  
**Contributing Writer**

*My eldest son turns 50 today (October 25<sup>th</sup>) and I wrote this in his honor. He celebrated by having a big gathering of family and friends which I would have loved to attend. However, as I am still on parole, I was denied permission to travel to Los Angeles for this once-in-a-lifetime celebration.*

*Some of you may not know that once you get out of prison, you're not as "free" as you might think. Parole can last from one year to the rest of your life, and it means you continue to be beholden to the state in many ways. For instance, I can't travel outside of a 50-mile radius from where I am living. I have to submit to a urinalysis test every month even though I have never been convicted of any drug-related charge. I am subject to parole checks where my parole officer comes to inspect how I am living – looking at who I'm hanging out with, assessing my moral rectitude. I have restrictions on who I can or can't associate with. And if I am found in violation of any of these restrictions, I can be immediately returned to San Quentin.*

*It was a great disappointment to me to not be able to celebrate Larry's 50th birthday in person, but I am hopeful that in this coming year I will be granted passes out of the county to visit not only Larry but my other children and grandchildren. There's no substitute for sitting in a loved one's kitchen, sharing laughter and conversation in person.*

*A Toast To My Eldest Son on His 50<sup>th</sup> Birthday!*

*Maybe some of you don't*

*know but shortly after Larry Jr. was born, I gave him the special name Kalima. When he got older, he didn't like the name because he felt self-conscious about it; he thought it was a little weird. When his mother started calling him "Lee-Lee" that was the end of it. He decided to just go back to using Larry. Kalima in Swahili means: "One with the spoken word." What I now realize, looking back upon these 50 years, is that what I should have named him is Nzuri Moyo, which means ONE WITH THE BEAUTIFUL HEART!*

**LIFTING THE GLASS TO BEGIN THE TOAST!**

Larry Jr., Nzuri Moyo, first son of Larry Joseph Stiner Sr. (Baba), I am trying to express to you just how proud I am that you were born MY SON, and how much I truly do love you. This cannot be captured in just

a few words or expressed in such a limited amount of space and time! I would need a forum more beautiful than a toast and I certainly would need to be there in person. But since this is your 50<sup>th</sup> birthday and I am moved to say something of significance and value, let me just say this:

You were born during a turbulent period in history... October 25, 1965—born during the heat and fire of revolutionary social change in this country. It is certainly no secret to you that I spent much of my time as your young father focusing on the big picture, on the "revolution," and not nearly enough time on being a father to you and your brother Shambulia. Imbued with revolutionary zeal and ideals, I left you and went off to save the world! No, I was not there when you and your little brother Shambu-

lia needed a father the most.

By all odds, and verified by so many analyses and statistics, you and your younger brother were doomed to be counted among the casualties of this society. You were predicted to either become addicted to drugs, consumed by the criminal justice system, or found dead from an unsuspecting bullet. Yes, the social deck was stacked against you. You were certainly predicted to be just another defeated young Black man, cast aside, lost or dying on the uncaring streets of Los Angeles.

However, you are one of the survivors!... But you are more than just a survivor. You are one of the too few success stories in the inner cities of America. I cannot (and won't pretend to) take credit for the strong Black man that you have become today. You are someone who has defied and defeated all the odds. I am so very proud of you!

Let me name just a few of the ways I see that beautiful heart in

action: It was you, my son, who, after many years, opened your heart and embraced a father who was not there when you needed him most. It was you who cared for, comforted, and protected your younger brother Shambulia when your father was thousands of miles away, always lifting him up and nurturing his spirit. And it was you who became a big brother to six younger siblings from South America whom you had never met. Yes, it was you, and your big beautiful heart, who have cared for them, given them loving counsel and unselfish advice. And it was you who unashamedly and uncompromisingly have supported and inspired me throughout my 21 years of re-incarceration. Perhaps rarely said by a father to his son, but I truly do consider you my hero!

Now I would LOVE to attribute some of that strength and smartness and good-looks to genetics. But I can only take credit for half of those. For the rest, I have to lift my glass up to my high school sweetheart, mother of my two sons, and give much praise to the woman who not only contributed her excellent DNA but—much more importantly—had to endure and shoulder all of the responsibility. A strong Black woman who sacrificed so much, and who had to be both rock and pillow during my absence. I want to honor your mother "Hodari," without whom you could not have become the wonderful human being you have become. And after the wonderful example she set, you went on to choose another strong and extraordinary woman to be your partner in life, Diane. I lift my glass to both of those praiseworthy women.

So, I wish you blessings without number and all good things without end. Happy 50<sup>th</sup> birthday **KALIMA**, my Son!



Photo provided by Watani Stiner

Watani Stiner and his son Larry Stiner Jr.

# ...Thanks, Dad, But How Far Have We Come?

**Larry Stiner Jr.**

**By Larry Stiner Jr.**  
**Contributing Writer**

Happy 50<sup>th</sup> Birthday: But How Far Have We Really Come?

On October 25<sup>th</sup> of this year, I joined Club 50 as my born day arrived and a large group of family members and friends launched into a soulful rendition of the happy birthday song.

It would be the 50th time in my life that this song would be sung in my honor. My father would miss 46 of those times not by choice but rather due to circumstances. You see, prison and exile had kept him away from those he loved as he paid a heavy price for confronting a racist, discriminatory and unjust part of society. So even as I sipped champagne, posed for photos and danced the night away in celebration of my special day, I thought of my father while questioning how far we had really come in terms of racial equality over the five decades of my life.

Born shortly after the Watts revolt in 1965, I came into the world just as the smoke from the burning Los Angeles area buildings cleared and a new type of fire was sparked in the spirit of young men and women who were ready to fight for change. The Black Power movement swept my father up and eventually led to my mother raising my younger brother and I alone as Dad focused almost exclusively on the necessary task of fighting to make things

right for our people. That revolutionary struggle landed him in San Quentin State Prison in 1969 with a life sentence and left me growing up wondering if I'd ever see him again. In the years that followed, he would escape from prison, flee the country and start a new family while living for 20 years in exile. In 1994, he would voluntarily surrender and return to prison in an attempt to save that new family from a life of extreme hardship as times grew drastic in the third world country he had made his home. He would serve another 21 years of incarceration in the same prison he had escaped from. That brings me to the milestone year of 2015. During this year, I celebrated my 20th wedding anniversary, my 30th year of employment with the City of Los Angeles and my 50th year on this Earth. And just after turning 50 years old, I found myself being most thankful for my father being released from prison nine months before I blew out the candles on my birthday cake. Yes, it had been a wonderful year full of incredible high points. Still, I couldn't

help but feel like more progress should have been made over the 600 months of my life. How far have we really come in the last 50 years?

The Watts rebellion had been sparked by police officers' mistreatment of a Black motorist and others at the scene of a traffic stop on August 11, 1965. More than 26 years later, on the night of March 3, 1991, the brutal beating of Black motorist Rodney King by several White police officers was caught on tape. With every television news station airing the recording, I watched in utter disbelief and anger as the police batons repeatedly slammed against all parts of this man's defenseless body. As Rodney rolled about in slow motion on the street taking this harsh beating, I noticed there were also many cops standing by and simply watching this battering take place. As if it were just a normal occurrence on the job, no attempt was made to by any of these badge-wearing onlookers to stop this atrocious act. Despite this all being captured by the camera lens of a filming citizen, a jury

acquitted the officers who faced charges of assault with a deadly weapon. This verdict set off the L. A. Rebellion on April 29, 1992. Eventually, the National Guard was called in to deal with the uprising just as it had been called in to do the same during the Watts rebellion. And today, more than 20 years after Los Angeles was set ablaze for a second time in protest; we are still seeing police brutality and the use of excessive force time and time again in Black communities. Once more, I ask, how far have we really come in the last 50 years?

As disappointed as I am with the slow process of change, I must still salute those who have sacrificed so much and sought to make a difference. So as others sing happy 50<sup>th</sup> birthday to me, I deem it necessary to say happy belated 50<sup>th</sup> birthday to the Watts revolt and to the revolutionary spirit that was born out of that uprising. Fifty years from now, whether I'm blessed enough to blow the candles out on another cake or not, I pray that things will be vastly different for the generations to come.



# HIGHER EDUCATION GAINS TRACTION

By Forrest Lee Jones  
Journalism Guild Writer

New emphasis is being placed on educating prisoners to help them succeed when they are freed the *Wall Street Journal* reports.

“It’s a worthwhile use of money, and it’s going to do what we want it to,” said philanthropist Doris Buffett. Her Sunshine Lady Foundation and the Ford Foundation have contributed millions of dollars to programs that allow prisoners the chance to earn a college education.

A 2013 study by the Rand Corp. found that inmates who participated in education programs, including college courses, had significantly lower odds of returning to prison than inmates who didn’t.

San Quentin State Prison serves as a model for college classes that are making a difference in prisoners’ lives and are viewed as a wise invest-

ment by corrections educational staff and students.

Gov. Jerry Brown signed legislation in June that includes \$12 million to promote statewide priorities, including college classes in state prisons. These classes could begin as soon as this fall.

“Spending money on college education of prisoners is a practical use of funds; it’s a sound investment. Many students have graduated from these programs and are pursuing higher education,” said Grant Young, college coordinator for San Quentin inmates.

Young oversees correspondence courses for Coastline Community College, Feather River and Lassen Community Colleges that offer Associate of Arts degrees, and The Ohio State University and Colorado State University that offer bachelor’s degrees.

“It’s very important to invest into (California) prisoners. A good way for that to happen is



Photo by  
**Dr. Jody Lewen**

through our academic and vocational programs,” said San Quentin Vice Principal of Education Michael Wheelless.

The renewed emphasis on prison education comes on the heels of Congress cutting public funds for prisoners in the 1990s. Prisoners received \$34 million in Pell Grants in

1993, the year before Congress made inmates ineligible for them based upon information provided by the Department of Education to Congress.

Critics say cutting those funds seems to have a link to an increase in the prison population because of parolees returning to prison. Between the mid-1990s and 2013, the U.S. prison population doubled to more than 2 million inmates, many of them repeat offenders, according to Justice Department figures.

A Volunteer Educational Program and college student, Michael Calvin Holmes, is enrolled in Feather River College correspondence courses. The college offers Business Certification and Associate Arts and Behavioral Science Emphasis degrees.

“It gives me direction in my life, and has opened up doors of opportunity for me,” Holmes said in an interview. “After I receive my degree, I will start

a business, which will give me and my family stability.”

Jody Lewen, founder of the privately funded Prison University Project at San Quentin, sees more dialogue increasing around funding college education in prison.

“All these things are coming together and creating a higher tolerance for this conversation,” said Lewen.

An example of the benefits of a college education in prison is Patrick Mims, 51. He received an associate degree through PUP in 2009.

He was paroled after serving 20 years for fatally stabbing a man during a fight. Since his release, Mims created a program in Contra Costa County to combat human trafficking at a nonprofit group and now helps ex-offenders transition back into communities.

“I wouldn’t have been able to do that if I hadn’t learned how to write and critically think,” said Mims.

## ‘Education Is Essential for Jailed Juveniles’

James R. Abernathy Jr.  
Journalism Guild Writer

Incarcerated juvenile offenders are in great need of high-quality education, a federal report says.

“Providing youths with quality educational services during incarceration is essential to keeping them engaged in their education and focused on their futures,” reported the U.S. Department of Education (ED), and

the U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ).

There are more than 2,500 juveniles in residential facilities across the U.S. This presents unique challenges to administrators, teachers and staff who are responsible for the rehabilitation and welfare of youths committed to their care, the December 2014 report states.

education standards that utilize instructional methods, tools, materials and practices that promote college and career readiness

involvement in the child welfare system,” reported the ED and DOJ.

Research provides compelling evidence of the negative effects on youths of long-term commitments to juvenile justice secure care facilities.

For example, experiencing incarceration as a youth greatly increases the likelihood of re-offending.

The change in focus to strength-based positive youth development approaches could represent a major organizational shift for juvenile justice agencies.

It is the responsibility of government at every level to work with communities and secure care facilities to ensure that youths are provided every opportunity to rehabilitate and successfully re-enter society.

“This report is but a first step toward mobilizing collective action to ensure that all secure care settings can become true engines of hope, opportunity and advancement for some of our most at-risk young people,” said the ED and DOJ. “As a nation, we must do no less.”

## Notre Dame Lecturer Speaks on the Effect Of Mass Incarceration

By Lee Jaspar  
Journalism Guild Writer

More than 2 million people are locked up in seriously flawed American prisons that need extensive reforms, says lecturer Martin F. Horn.

“The consequence of imprisonment goes well beyond the walls of the prison. They affect the children, families and neighborhoods in which the imprisoned live and the political and economic dynamics of these communities as well,” Horn said in a lecture on human dignity given in the Center for Church Life at the University of Notre Dame.

“More than 10,000 children are in adult prisons and jails, and over 2.7 million have a parent in prison or jail,” Horn added.

“Crime and imprisonment affect discrete sections of our communities. Prisoners in every jurisdiction come from just a small number of communities, mostly concentrated in the poorest neighborhoods with the least resources and the most problems of health, housing and nutrition,” Horn said.

“One cannot divorce the discussion of imprisonment from the discussion of race in our country. As a result of federal census rules and federal funding schemes, we redirect money away from communities in need to prison communities and through discriminatory voting rules we diminish the

electoral power of the most poor and disenfranchised communities,” according to Horn.

“Most prisoners are men between the ages of 18-35, and they are disproportionately Black and Latino,” Horn said. “This is the time most young men should be building their lives, their families and careers. It is a time when young men are at their most vital, physical, social and aggressive.”

“They have been left to live on their own, been abused or raised in state institutions. They have left the church, been suspended or expelled from school. They have been homeless and often suffer from untreated mental illness. Many have not finished high school and are functionally illiterate.”

Horn recommends a series of changes including:

- Repair the damage to the communities where released prisoners return
- Prisons should support and help involvement of caring communities, such as faith groups and businesses
- Teach inmates and staff respect for the law and others
- Support educational programs for prisoners
- Don’t imprison the mentally ill
- Increase transparency
- Make prisons safe and drug-free
- End demonization of prisoners.

The ED and DOJ have recommended guiding principles conducive to providing high-quality education in juvenile secure-care settings such as:

A safe, healthy facility-wide climate that prioritizes education, provides the conditions for learning and encourages the necessary behavioral and social support services that address the individual needs of all youths

Necessary funding to support educational opportunities for all youths within long-term secure facilities

Recruitment, employment and retention of qualified education staff with skills relevant in juvenile justice

Rigorous and relevant curricula aligned with state academic and career and technical

**“Providing youths with quality educational services during incarceration is essential”**

Formal processes and procedures through statutes, memoranda of understanding and practices that ensure successful navigation across child-serving systems and smooth re-entry into communities

In 2011, there were more than 60,000 youths detained or committed to juvenile justice residential and secure care facilities.

“Many of these youths have experienced abuse or neglect, unsafe neighborhood environments, homelessness and/or in-

## Report Highlights Congress Push for Bipartisan Criminal Justice Reform

By Tommy Bryant  
Journalism Guild Writer

A bipartisan push for criminal justice reform is echoing through the halls of Congress.

Democrats and Republicans are realizing that drug rehabilitation programs could have avoided ballooning costs and saved many lives ruined by lengthy prison terms, *The New York Times* reports.

Nearly one in three Americans have an arrest record, and one in every 132 Americans is in prison or on parole, said Sen. Cory Booker, D-N.J. “No nation on Earth has imprisoned this many of its own people,” Booker added.

Former Democratic President Bill Clinton addressed an NAACP gathering recently, saying legislation he signed went too far for far too long. He disavowed part of a crime bill that sent criminals with minor offenses to prison. At the time he signed the bill, it was considered a major achievement for domestic policy, the newspaper reported July 28.

“We’ve got a lot of people in prison, frankly, that don’t really in my view need to be there,” stated former House Speaker John A. Boehner, a Republican.

The rise in prisoners has been a direct outgrowth of changes in sentencing laws,

said Shannon Dolovich, a law professor and sentencing expert at the University of California, Los Angeles.

Democrats and Republicans propped up the “War on Drugs” and increased in crime throughout the 1970s and ‘80s, which created tougher sentencing, the newspaper noted.

The ideas suggested for the “SAFE Justice Act” is evidence-based with data from “32 states that have already reduced both their crime rate and their prison rate in the last five years, with a cumulative cost savings exceeding \$5 billion,” according to Reps. Jim Sensenbrenner, R-Wisc., and Robert C. Scott, D-Va.



1. Bismarck, N.D.— “There are too many inmates and not enough capacity,” said Leann Bertsch, director of the North Dakota Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation, *The Associated Press* reports. Prison administrators blame the state’s overcrowded prisons on people coming to the state to work on the oil fields. The prisons are holding 500 more inmates than they are designed to hold, topping 1,800 prisoners. Negotiations are under way to send some inmates to a private prison in Colorado.

2. Oklahoma — Execution of prisoners on the state’s Death Row has been suspended until at least 2016 because of a botched lethal injection last January, *The Associated Press* reports. Attorney General Scott Pruitt has agreed not to seek any execution until 150 days after an investigation is concluded regarding compliance with the state’s protocol for lethal injections

3. Oklahoma — The state’s overcrowded prison system is switching its reliance on private prisons, [news.ok.com](#) reports. The state spent \$92.2 million last year, a 16 percent increase over the year before, according to the state Corrections Department. The private prison companies, GEO Group, Inc., and Corrections Corporation of America own or operate five prisons in the state.

4. Marysville, Ohio— [Melissa Etheridge](#) performed a show for about 2,300 women at the Ohio Reformatory for Women after



seeing a video of the women singing one of her songs, *The Columbus Dispatch* reports.

5. Columbus, Ohio — Executions are suspended until at least 2017 while prison officials seek supplies of lethal injection drugs, prison officials reported to *The Associated Press*. Gov. John Kasich extended all executions for 11 inmates scheduled for next year and one scheduled for early 2017. The state’s last execution was January 2014.

6. Augusta, Maine—Prisoner advocates and representatives of the American Civil Liberties Union of Maine are protesting

prison rule changes that would limit the ability of inmates to communicate outside of prison, *Bangor Daily News* reports.

7. Richmond, Va. — Seven men awaiting execution on Virginia’s Death Row are receiving more recreation time, *The Associated Press* reports. In addition, the condemned men will be able to go to a room to watch TV, make phone calls, play games, send emails and have contact visits.

8. Washington, D.C. — When prosecutors in a Georgia murder case used racially coded notes, the U.S. Supreme Court was asked to

determine if dismissing potential jurors as a way to discriminate is legal, *The Washington Post* reports. A 2014 *Washington Post-ABC News* poll revealed only one in 10 African-Americans believes minorities receive equal treatment with Whites in the criminal justice system. Six in 10 White Americans had confidence that police treat the races equally.

9. Washington, D.C. — Reductions of pork from the federal prison menu led to cutting it all together for a few weeks, Edmond Ross, a spokesman

for the federal prison system told *The Washington Post*. In the last two years, bacon, pork chops and sausages, were eliminated from the menu, leaving only pork roast.

10. Washington, D.C. — Hillary Clinton, Democratic presidential candidate, said her campaign would no longer take money from private prison companies, campaign spokesperson Xochitl Hinojosa told *ThinkProgress*. The Clinton campaign said the money it has already received from private prison companies will be donated to charity.

11. Montgomery, Ala. — [Beniah Alton Dandridge](#) was released from prison after serving nearly 20 years in prison for a 1994 murder. Court records show that there were credible claims of innocence, including his co-defendant’s sworn testimony saying Dandridge was not present at the murder.

12. South Carolina — Seven prison inmates have been sentenced to a combined more than 7,000 days in solitary confinement for a rap video that was placed on the Internet. They made the film in 2014 while in a cell, [nydailynews.com](#) reports.

13. Florida — A coalition of 14 human rights groups asked the U.S. Department of Justice to investigate Florida’s prisons, contending that “immediate intervention” is necessary to stop the widespread abuse, neglect, torture and deaths of inmates, the *Miami Herald* reports.

# Humane Approach to Solitary Confinement

**By John Lam**  
**Journalism Guild Writer**

Washington State has adopted innovative approaches to treating solitary confinement prisoners more humanely, *The Slate Group* reports.

The changes spearheaded by Bernie Warner resulted in an almost 50 percent drop in the number of people in segregation, from 612 in January 2011 when the program for violent inmates started, to 286 in March 2015, the story reports.

Warner, head of state prisons, was first exposed to inhumane treatments at Walla Walla State Penitentiary 35 years ago, the story notes.

At any time an estimated 80,000 Americans are being held in segregation units for 23 hours a day, in some cases up to 28 years, *The Slate Group* stated.

Solitary confinement is reserved for the “worst of the worst – irredeemable monsters with irrepressible violent tendencies that led officials to conclude it was too dangerous to keep them with the prison’s general population,” the article reported.

“Ultimately 95 percent of (those in solitary confinement) will be released into the community,” said Warner.

Inmates who experience extreme sensory deprivation can start to experience hallucina-

tions, chronic depression and suicidal thoughts, according to a research study conducted by David Lovell, then a professor at the University of Washington.

His study found that 25 percent of the inmates who experience segregation were released back into society directly from solitary confinement – meaning they were going directly from total isolation to freedom.

Every prisoner, even the so-called worst of the worst, deserves a chance to improve himself, instead of being left to waste away in a tiny, windowless cell with no human contact for months or even years, Warner said. “How people are treated in the deepest end of the

correctional system is what really defines it.”

His program includes behavioral courses offered to inmates administered by correctional staff in makeshift classrooms transformed from a lieutenant’s office and two old food pantries.

“Because the inmates taking the courses are considered extremely dangerous, they are restrained at their desks with shackles but allowed enough room to move around that they can turn toward each other and participate in role-playing activities designed to teach conflict resolution and the social

skills required to deal with other people peacefully,” Slate reported.

“In Walla Walla, violent offenders with possible gang ties are coached in suppressing aggression. In the Monroe Correctional Complex, mentally ill inmates with inclinations toward chronic self-harm are put through group therapy and stabilized through medication. In the Clallam Bay Corrections Center, people with nonviolent behavioral issues and impulsivity problems are taught self-control and coping mechanisms,” Slate reported.

## New Florida Law Gives A Break to Juvenile Offenders

Florida juvenile offenders could get second and third chances to avoid arrest under legislation that took effect in October.

The new law provides for more than one civil citation from law enforcement. It offers the option of “diverting young offenders into mandatory community service for some offenses, such as getting in fights or smoking pot. Offenders are also required to write letters of apology to their victims and assessed to see if they’re likely

to re-offend,” *News Service of Florida* reported.

“To me, it’s all about making the good decision,” Pinellas County Sheriff Bob Gualtieri said. “It’s less important the number of civil citations a kid gets – it’s the circumstances surrounding it.”

The use of civil citations has grown quickly in Florida over the past four years, going from seven to 60 of the state’s 67 counties. Advocacy groups released a study that found a 25 percent increase in the use of

civil citations would save taxpayers as much as \$61 million, *News Service* reported.

Supporters include the Children’s Campaign, the Center for Accountable Justice at Florida State University, the Southern Poverty Law Center and the James Madison Institute. They urged lawmakers to invest \$2 million to expand the programs through officer training, a statewide information network and seed money for poorer counties.

—John Lam

### Dear Reader(s):

Our message of rehabilitation and criminal justice reform is spreading because of your support. Thank you.

We’ve expanded into 22 prison libraries in California where the San Quentin News is distributed to inmates for free. We are moving closer to our goal: making it accessible to every prisoner in the state of California.

One way you can help us get our rehabilitative message to more prisoners is to donate any amount. Donors who contribute \$40 or more will receive San Quentin News for one year.

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Thank you again for your continued support.



# Arts & Entertainment

## Peyto Lake



Photo by P. Jo

*"If we could read the secret history of our enemies, we could find in each man's life a sorrow and a suffering enough to disarm all hostility." -Henry Wadsworth Longfellow*

### Snippets

Christians believe the main causes of cruelty are avarice, contempt for nature and unkindness.

On equal grounds: the word man is written in the Quran just as many times as the word woman.

Group together: Judaism is considered the original of the three Abrahamic faiths. Christianity and Islam are the other two.

In reference to the name Jesus, no one called him that in his lifetime not even the Romans. His name was Y'shua according to the Hebrews.

The 98 foot statue of Christ the Redeemer in Rio de Janeiro was revealed on Corcovado Mountain.

Aztecs built a great temple in Tenochtitlan, where they honored Huitzilopochtli, the Sun God and God of War, with human sacrifices.

The name God is spelled with four letters in Latin, Greek, Hebrew, Syrian, Arabian, Persian, Irish, French and Spanish.

Elder Tree was the wood of the cross of Christ's crucifixion.

### Sudoku Corner

	9	4	7		2	3	6	
		6				7		
7			6		9			2
9			3		5			4
5			9		1			7
2			4		7			3
		7				5		
	1	9	5		6	2	7	

5	8	2	1		4			
9				6	3			
		6	2					
	1	5	4			3		7
4		7			9	1	5	
					1	2		
			6	4				5
			8		7	4	6	1

### Last Issue's Sudoku Solution

4	2	9	8	1	5	6	7	3
1	7	5	6	3	2	4	8	9
8	6	3	4	9	7	5	1	2
2	8	6	1	5	3	7	9	4
9	3	7	2	4	6	8	5	1
5	4	1	7	8	9	2	3	6
3	5	8	9	6	4	1	2	7
7	9	4	5	2	1	3	6	8
6	1	2	3	7	8	9	4	5

1	3	6	2	8	5	7	9	4
8	4	9	6	7	1	5	2	3
5	2	7	4	9	3	6	1	8
2	6	5	1	4	7	8	3	9
3	9	1	8	5	2	4	7	6
4	7	8	3	6	9	1	5	2
7	8	3	9	1	6	2	4	5
6	1	2	5	3	4	9	8	7
9	5	4	7	2	8	3	6	1

### Complete This Puzzle and Win a Prize!

Howard met an Elf and a Reindeer in the woods and asked them what day it was. Knowing that the Elf always tell lies on Mondays, Tuesdays and Wednesdays and the Reindeer always lie on Thursdays, Fridays and Saturdays, Howard asked the Elf first. "Well, yesterday was one of my lying days," the Elf said. Howard then asked the Reindeer and he said "yesterday was one of my lying days too." So what day is it and who lied?

The Answer to Last Months Trivia is:  
I am a hole.

The winner to last Month's puzzle is: Leroy Lucas  
Congratulation to Robert Bacon and E. Vick for also getting last month's puzzle correct.

#### Rules

The prize will be for completion of brain twister puzzles. All puzzle submissions should be sent via u-save-em envelope to *San Quentin News*/ Education Department. Only one entry per person.

All correct submissions will be placed in a hat. The winner will be picked by a drawing of the first correct answer from that hat.

The prize is 2 Granola Bars. Prize will only be offered to inmates with privilege group status that allows for the prize items. Inmates transferred, sent to ad/seg, or otherwise not available to claim their prize will result in forfeiture.

The answer and winner's name will be published in the next issue of the *San Quentin News*.



# SQ News Is Read Around the World



The SQ News appreciates the Masai Mara tribe of Masai Mara in Kenya holding our newspaper on a cloudy day



The San Quentin News finds its way to Denmark with Lise McNamara. The girl in the background is The Little Mermaid, Copenhagen's noted waterfront symbol.



Eric and Joseph (two of the Masai Mara safari guides) reading the San Quentin News at the Maasai Mara National Reserve



Susan Shannon with SQ News on Orcas Island, Wa.



Judy McDermott Holding the SQ News at the "Trees of Mystery" in Klamath, California

## New L.A. Project Targets Recidivism Rate

By Isaiah Thompson-Bonilla  
Journalism Guild Writer

A conglomerate in Los Angeles is embarking upon a project that will focus solely on reducing the recidivism rate. The conglomerate includes private foundations, city and county organizations, the L.A. County Sheriff's Department and others.

State Attorney General Kamala Harris attended a meeting at the Pitchess Detention Facility to introduce her "Back on Track" program to the Los Angeles area, according to a California Department of Justice news release.

In 2005, when Harris was San Francisco district attorney, she created a reentry initiative, Back on Track. In November 2013, as Attorney General, Harris created the Division of Recidivism Reduction and Re-entry. The program was designed and geared toward reducing recidivism through a collaborative partnership utilizing counties' district attorneys, investigat-



State Attorney General Kamala Harris

ing and implementing practices and initiatives to foster a viable outcome.

Since becoming state attorney general, Harris' vision to reduce recidivism has continued. "Reducing recidivism is key to a smart-on-crime approach to criminal justice. Instead of only reacting to crime, we must also focus on prevention, to shut the revolving door of the criminal justice system," Harris said.

The program, "Back on Track L.A.," is designed to hold offenders accountable. Offenders will address the harm they inflicted upon their communities, their families and themselves.

The attorney general also talked about the importance the program has with helping the participants build the skills necessary to become active law-abiding citizens. These practices will ultimately enhance public safety,

which essentially makes the program a win-win for everyone, she said.

L.A. Sheriff Jim McDonnell said there are people incarcerated who could be productive citizens if alternative sentencing programs were available.

"We have too many people in jails who can and should be contributing members of our community," McDonnell said. The Back on Track program offers the participants an opportunity for continuing their education as well as beginning a vocational program to develop marketable skills for employment. Also available is a mentoring program and support network for both in-custody and out-of-custody participants.

The program usually operates at a capacity of 90 participants, who fall under a special category, which has been named "triple nons." Triple nons represents those offenders that have non-violent, non-serious and non-sexual offenses and are currently housed in

L.A. County.

The in-custody program has four modules, which includes cognitive behavior training, education (academic and/or career technical), life skills and re-entry training.

The out-of-custody program has three phases: housing, continuing education and employment. Once a participant is released, there is an Employment Advisory Board that will assist the inmates in attaining employment.

Funding is provided by the U.S. Department of Justice Second Chance Act and also by private foundations such as the Ford Foundation, California Wellness Foundation and the Rosenberg Foundation, the report said.

The Recidivism Reduction and Re-Entry (RRE) program, which was created by Harris, is currently developing a division that will define what recidivism is statewide. The RRE will also be searching for attainable grants to fund the creation and expansion of anti-recidivism programs.



# Imago Dei Gets Last Laugh Over Warriors, 75-63

By **Rahsaan Thomas**  
Staff Writer

It was the last game scheduled for the visiting Imago Dei team to play the San Quentin Warriors this season. They had lost the last five meetings, but this time was different. Former San Francisco Rumble Teohn Conner's 35-point performance combined with teammate Mike Kehrig's 21 earned them a 75-63 victory.

"It has been a year wait. I forgot what it feels like to win," joked Kehrig. "Our coach was great. He played me a lot."

Conner added, "On the way here, I said we have to win be-

cause we won't see them again until next season."

Imago took off in the first quarter, gaining a nine-point lead at 17-9, with one-minute left, but the Warriors rallied back.

Jason Jones nailed a three-pointer, followed by Anthony Ammons rebound put back and then a layup while keeping Imago scoreless. The Warriors took the lead, 18-17.

"Great quarter; terrible last minute," commented Imago's three-point specialist, Steve Diekman.

By half time, the Warriors were up 38-33.

Imago's Nate Mihem gave a



Photo by Eddie Herena

Sean Donahue and Tony Thomas boxing out Anthony Ammons and Rafael Cueves



Photo courtesy of Tony Thomas

Sean Donahue celebrating an Imago Dei win over the SQ. Warriors with a dip in the Bay

talk about the power of prayer. He was part of Oakland Community Organization, which is a network of clergy, who went to the capital in an effort to convince Gov. Jerry Brown to sign AB 953. The bill would help stop racial profiling by requiring police to keep records of everyone they stop and to document why. Mihem left after hearing Brown was not going to sign the bill. However, they prayed in front of his office before leaving, and Brown signed the bill after all.

"With God all things are pos-

sible," said Mihem.

Last time Imago won, team member Sean Donahue took the plunge in San Francisco Bay because he was so happy.

"Shaun was the original coach of the San Quentin Warriors. It makes me happy that they can get that much joy from coming in here with us," said San Quentin Warriors' Coach Daniel Wright.

In the second half, Conner was guarded by Ammons. Both athletic men gave each other trouble, but Conner came out on

top.

"I think he (Conner) scored 20 in the fourth quarter. He turned it up in the end," said Diekman.

Ammons led the Warriors with 19 points. Allan McIntosh added 14. Harry "ATL" Smith was given the day off.

The Oct. 24 game was the day after playing the Golden State organization.

"I think we were still winded from yesterday. They wanted it more than we did today," said Warriors Head Coach Daniel Wright.

# Trailblazers' Return Visit Drops Kings, 64-52

After the visiting Bittermen basketball team lost by one-point the week before, several players returned to San Quentin as Trailblazers and topped the Kings, 64-52.

"They played the better game. It was their day," said Kings shooting guard Marvin Cosby.

The Trailblazers may have been motivated by teammate Antwan Capla's passionate opening.

Pre-game he talked at center court about losing a brother to Sickle Cell Anemia and fighting to bring awareness and resources to stop the disease that primarily affects Black men.

"I don't want to see any more family trees affected," said Capla.

King three-point sharp shooter Aubra-Lamont "Coocoo" McNeely spoke about being found unsuitable by the parole board due to historical factors. They gave him a three-year denial.

Maintaining a positive demeanor, he thanked everyone for their prayers.

"And we still have to guard



Photo by Eddie Herena

Trailblazers Aidan Coffino, Steven Lamb, Will Wheatly, Ryan Williams, John Taylor, Pete Johnson and Antwan Capla.

the corner three," joked Bittermen/Traiblazer Ted Saltveit.

The Trailblazers started out in the hole. They were down 23-13 early in the second quarter. However, by the second half, they were ahead 28-24, aided by the two three-pointers dropped by Aidan Coffino.

The Kings settled for jump

shots that clanked off the rim, and they fell behind, 40-33.

"We need to be aggressive on offense. That doesn't mean throwing up everything. We have to attack the basket," advised Kings Coach Orlando Harris.

The Kings respond, starting with Thad Fleeton making his

patented post-up move, followed by Oris "Pep" Williams's point-blank jumper, closing the gap to 40-39.

"Pep" Williams led the Kings with 15 points. Fleeton added seven.

In the fourth, former San Francisco Rumble Will Wheatley and teammate Ryan Wil-

liams turned it up. They finished for a combined total of 30 points (16 and 14, respectively), putting the Trailblazers on top, 57-52, with 1:19 left in regulation.

"We have a solid team," said Wheatley about the key to victory.

The Kings tried to come back by fouling to stop the clock and making quick baskets. They got the fouling part right but couldn't purchase a basket.

Capla hit two of four free throws, and Aidan Coffino nailed three of four to seal the Trailblazers' victory.

Coffino said he was a 91 percent free-throw shooter at The Urban School in San Francisco.

"I would have made all four but Aubra whispered in my ear," joked Coffino.

Capla finished with 10 points, Coffino 9 in the Oct. 17 game.

Teammate Steven Lamb had 6 points, 3 rebounds, 3 assists, 1 steal and a block.

"That's my game. I play an old Draymond game," said Lamb.

—**Rahsaan Thomas**

# Hardtimers End Season Over Christian Ministry, 16-12

*'We have been coming here for so long, these guys are like family'*

By **Marcus Henderson**  
Journalism Guild Writer

The San Quentin Hardtimers softball team ended the season on a high note by beating the Christian Prison Sports Ministry, 16-12.

The Hardtimers jumped to a 7-0 lead in the first inning with a series of singles, and Cory Woods doubled for two RBIs.

"This is my last season. I'm glad I had a chance to play with a great group of guys and against some wonderful visitors. I feel blessed to start the next phase of my life," said

Woods, who had earned a parole date.

Christian Ministry was down 7-1 when they rallied to tie the score in the third with six runs. They scored two runs with five straight singles. The power play came when Tyler Smith smash a triple with the bases loaded. The next batter popped out to close the inning.

"We have been coming here for so long, these guys are like family. Christ united us with our brothers who are being redeemed," said visitor Brian Watts.

Adam Nieting of the Ministry

added, "We appreciate the competition, but our bigger purpose is to share the word of God."

The Ministry scored three runs in the fifth, putting them ahead 10-7.

The Hardtimers took the lead back in the fifth with four runs, including a double smacked by DuPriest Brown, making the score 11-10. The Hardtimers added three runs in the sixth.

Christian Ministry scored twice in the seventh before they were shut down.

"It's been a great season. We went 11-5 (on the season). We face great competition. I

appreciate these guys' dedication to this program. We will do this again next year," said Hardtimers Sponsor/Manager Don White, after the Oct. 4 game.

Ke Lam Nghiep, the Hardtimers power hitter and all around Mr. Baseball, was also given a parole date.

"I will miss this team dearly. I'm thankful to have played with such great coaches and men. I wouldn't trade it for anything else in the world," said Nghiep.

Don Smith of the Ministry added, "The last game is al-

ways the hardest because we're not only leaving friends, but family, our brothers in Christ. We use this time as our divine calling and God is guiding us to His glory."

Additionally, the Hardtimers beat the North Bay Bombers on Sept. 27.

"All we have to say is we are going to get us some big hitters and do some spring training. So don't get soft," said Brian Palozola.

Katie Scull added, "We're going to miss everybody. Stay positive. We're coming harder next year."



# New Member Smashes Two-Hour 1000 Mile Club Record

By Marcus Henderson  
Journalism Guild Writer

Markelle Taylor broke the five-year-old two-hour run record after only being in the 1000 Mile Club for six months by completing 18-11/16 miles.

"I really went hard the first hour. Then the guys started encouraging me to keep the pace and that I could break the two-hour record. I was in pain; but I just thought about my kids and family. That's when I relaxed and ran free," said Taylor.

The two-hour run scheduled for Aug. 21 was cancelled due to a Legionnaires' Disease lockdown. It then combined with the Oct. 9 three-hour run. Most runners chose to compete for two hours.

Glen Mason came in first in the three-hour category, by completing 23-1/2 miles, followed by Reynaldo Campos with 22-5/6 miles and Simon Liu with 19-1/4.

Coach Frank Ruona added, "I've seen many guys go for



Markelle Taylor leading the pack

that record over the years. He ran well; I want to see what he does in the coming marathon."

The runners enjoyed a beautiful sunny day, as they zigzagged through crowds of people on a raggedy track.

First-time runners Chuan Pang and Oscar Arana gave big smiles as they ran on fumes to complete the two-hour course. Pang ran 7-1/2 miles.

"I learned I could push myself past my limits. The most I ran was five-miles, today I did 12. I just focused on what I wanted to do when I got out and my family. That was my motivation. I love them very much," said Arana.

Pang added, "This was the hardest exercise I ever done. I just kept my head down to block out distractions and kept running."

Chris Skull and Carlos Moreno came in second and third out of the two-hour runners, completing 15-1/4 miles and 15 miles, respectively.

Carlos Ramirez was the last of the only four runners who finished the three-hours.

"Like with anything you have to train for these events. I did the three-hours, but we didn't have a lot of training time, and I was struggling at two," said Ramirez. He completed 19-1/4 miles.

Tone Evans added, "Being down due to the Legionnaires' thing, cut into our training. So our mechanics had to kick in, but we learned to push each other."

"I thank the coaches and the volunteers for their encouragement and support. They helped us to be more positive and understanding. That is what we need in this environment," said Al Yaseng.

Volunteer coach, Kevin Ramon concluded, "You have to find something that puts you in the spot you want to be in life. Unfortunately, a lot of people don't find that spot. So whatever you like doing, be it art or running, you have to find that zone and get above the noise."

# Fox Sports News Team Films Lower Yard Action

By Juan Haines  
Managing Editor

San Quentin's music program filled the air with jazz and rhythm and blues Oct. 17 as inmates enjoyed sporting activities on the prison's Lower Yard.

Soccer, basketball, softball and tennis balls were flying around that Saturday morning, while in a corner of the yard, inmate-veterans practiced for November's Veterans Day ceremony.

Amid the hustle and bustle, a film crew from *Fox Sports News* ventured inside to interview the San Quentin Tennis Team while they played with and against some local players from the free world.

"I wanted to do a story about how race segregation works inside prison," *Fox* producer David Brand said. "Awhile back, I read about the tennis court in the *San Francisco Chronicle* and saw that it was desegregated. I thought a story about it would resonate with a lot of

people."

On the tennis court, African-American, White, Asian, as well as other inmates, were mingling with each other and with men and women from the Bay Area who came inside to play tennis. They tested racquets, matched teams, set up games and then played doubles and mixed doubles.

"I think it's a great way to get exercise and stay away from the negative influences of prison life," said inmate Chris Schuhmacher. "I get to socialize with inmates I'd normally not be able to, along with playing against the outside tennis community."

Inmate Terry Slaughter said he's been incarcerated 30 years and played tennis at several other prisons for the last 20 years.

Slaughter arrived at San Quentin in 2011.

"The tennis program here is special," Slaughter said. "The mature attitudes and amount of cultures cannot compare to other prisons." He added: "San Quentin has a more natural



Camera man capturing Inside Tennis Team player Terry Slaughter returning a serve for Fox Sports

environment. There's respect and sportsmanship because the players come from self-help programs that demand rehabilitation."

Slaughter is a member of

several self-help programs, including TRUST (Teaching Responsibility Utilizing Sociological Training), Restorative Justice, Criminal Gangs Anonymous and Narcotics

Anonymous. He has completed courses in Addiction Recovery Counseling and Non-Violent Communications. He is also a Peer Health Educator. Currently, he's enrolled in Vocational Electronics. Slaughter said he is eligible to apply for parole in 2017.

"Tennis for me is an opportunity to experience a very natural, easy feeling inside of me. In other words, it's stress free," said inmate Raphael Calix, 59. "There's a free spirit in tennis that allows me to get away from the stresses of prison life. Any worries that I have during the day are gone when I step on the court and get into the game. On the San Quentin court people are no longer defined by race or color. They are persons playing the game with me."

In summing up his day, *Fox* producer Bland commented that getting cleared by prison authorities to do this story "wasn't as hard as I thought it would be. Public Information Officer, Lt. Sam Robinson was great."

# Former Doubles Champs Happy to Visit Inside Tennis Team



Photo by Eddie Herena

Robert Neyses, Raymond Bodine, Ronnie Mohamed, Max Eliman, Clay Long, Rafael Calix, Ilya Gendel, Charlie Cutter, Paul Oliver, Paul Alleyne and Noel Scott

Two-time tennis champions Max Eliman and Ilya Gendelman served up nothing but love to the San Quentin tennis team.

Eliman and Gendelman won the NCAA National Doubles Championships in 2007 and 2009 for the University of Santa Clara team.

"I wanted to experience this. I saw a video with my friend Charlie Cutler who was here with his University of San Francisco team. Everyone has made me feel comfortable. I recommend this to everybody. I'm a tennis pro and coach and this experience helps you keep appreciation for the game," said Eliman.

Cutler added, "These guys appreciate the sport like I never experience in other places. I love being a part of this program. This game helps you to

focus your energy and to get out of your head. You can also be creative. I'd like to have more guys come out."

The tennis team members expressed what they get out of the program.

"I used to train in boxing; now I'm addicted to tennis. When these guys come and give us lessons, I take it to heart," said Clay Long.

Chris Schuhmacher added, "It's great these guys come out to teach and spend time. When you feel everybody might be against us, playing them makes you feel more connected to the outside."

Raymond Bodine concluded, "Being out here is a more normal environment than a class or self-help group. You really get to see yourself in a competitive environment."

— Marcus Henderson



